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The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish an article from the Director of the Labour Department on examples of Civil Suits.

We have received this morning the final decision of Government on the prohibition of importation of all outside teas into India. The G. O. Mis. 1 Revenue dated 3rd January 1918 on the subject reads as follows:—"In continuation of G. O. No. 3668 Revenue dated 20th November 1917, the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India is informed that the Government of India regret their inability to accept the proposal to prohibit the import of all outside tea into India."

This issue is mostly taken up with correspondence and telegrams from the Indian Tea Commissioner.

The re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. produces two letters.

Mr. Pinches writes on the I. D. F.

Sir Francis Spring writes on storage space in Madras and is valuable as keeping the question of Railways and Harbours in the public eye.

A very good suggestion emanating from Mr. G. K. Martin as to capturing coffee markets in the East is deserving of the serious attention of all interested in coffee.

To the Honorary Secretary, Shevaroy Planters' Association we are indebted for the extract from the monthly report of the Government Mycologist.

On Monday the 17th instant, a meeting convened by Mr. C. Lake, President of the South Mysore Planters' Association, on a suggestion from Government, was held in the Tellicherry Club. There were present Messrs. J. G. Hamilton (Chairman), L. King Church, C. Lake, H. R. Lockie, F. Macrae, E. I. Mahon, J. V. Saldanha and U. Zellweger. The meeting was, therefore, fairly representative of Coorg and Mysore planters and Tellicherry and Mangalore curers. The meeting had before it the resolution moved by Mr. Lake and seconded by Mr. Mahon at the U. P. A. meeting in August, namely:—"That the Government of India be approached with a view to their purchasing the stocks of coffee now remaining in the country if tonnage is not available," and was practically unanimous in its decisions, though many points required free discussion, and a rough scheme was drawn up for submission in the first instance to the Government of Madras. It was considered inadvisable to publish any details until it had been so submitted.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

EXAMPLES OF CIVIL SUITS:—A. is a Maistry against whom no less than 5 civil suits are pending. This man has a little property but it is mortgaged up to the hilt. The man is ill and cannot be arrested. An attempt was made to do so with the hopes of inducing his family to pay up for him. This they declined to do, and the man was released by the Munsiff's orders. All we can do is to take a keen interest in his recovery, and arrest him again as soon as he is in a fit state of health.

B. was a more fortunate case, in which the Department learnt that a defaulter against whom they held a decree for over Rs. 1,000, had won a law suit for a large amount. No time was lost in moving the Court concerned to withhold payment on the strength of our decree. This brought the defaulter to his senses immediately and the full amount, plus interest was duly recovered from him without having to proceed further with the case.

We have found by experience it is a mistake for Estates situated in Native States, to have agreements made out in British India. There is no objection to a pro-note being taken, but it is a fact that British Courts are overcrowded with work and consequently very slow, while Civil Courts in Planting districts in Native States having fewer cases on their files, dispose of them quicker. It is therefore a saving of time, if Civil action has to be taken, to get a decree in the Native State, and have it transferred to the district Court in British India. In this connection the attention of subscribers is drawn to my Circular No. 14 of 6th January 1916.

C was a defaulter who owed his Head Kangany Rs.293 odd, which the Department demanded on his behalf by registered letter, the reply was a post card "The Agent would get no money now." Civil action was taken and the defaulter paid up Rs.330 in full settlement.

D was also the defaulter of a Kangany to whom he owed Rs. 130. A suit had been filed sometime before the Department came into existence, when the matter came into our hands we found a difficulty as to witnesses. A Panchayat was convened which effected a compromise that the debtor should pay Rs. 75 a month till the claim was satisfied. No instalment was paid. A new suit was filed for the full amount with costs, and decree obtained in our favour. The man's property was found to be in the jurisdiction of another Court, and there was a delay in obtaining a transfer, when it was found that the defaulter had transferred his property to his wife's name. Execution was therefore enforced against his person. He was arrested, and his wife and son promised to pay the amount, but failed to do so and even repudiated their undertaking. Owing to plague the village was evacuated and great delay occurred in getting their property attached, it was put up for sale in May 1917 and was purchased by our Agent for Rs. 126. After obtaining possession the defendant used every possible means to prevent our getting any bid for it, likely buyers being intimidated. In September we evicted the tenants, and in October a sale was effected for Rs. 200 and so the claim was at last satisfied.

E was a Kangany who owed a large amount to an Estate which obtained a decree against him. After long delays, it was found to be advisable to buy out other creditors and take possession of the land. This cost Rs. 1,150 and the land is said to be worth Rs.2,000. Whether we will realize so much remains to be seen, but we do not anticipate the same trouble as in the former case.

F. was a man who received an advance of Rs. 100 for whom G stood security. Contract not being fulfilled, we demandsd return of the money from the surety, who asked for time, and begged us not to file a suit which would prejudice his character and business. He refrained however from paying up and a suit against him was filed last March. In July decree was obtained, and he paid up Rs. 117 odd in September.

H. a cooly of Kangany I. who was crimped by Kangany J. who promised to pay his debt to I, but failed to do so. Suit was filed in March and decree obtained for Rs.45. The plaintiff however accepted Rs.25 in full settlement.

K. a cooly against whom it was found to be necessary to file a suit in June last, but the plaintiff did not appear to give evidence till November, when he accepted Rs. 37-8-0 in full settlement.

L. was a long standing case, which finally yielded Rs. 40 on execution of the decree, and a pro-note for the balance of claim of Rs. 100.

M. was a defaulter against whom a decree was obtained. His bullocks sold for Rs. 38-4-0 and we hope to extract something more.

Numerous other small cases could be cited, but sufficient has been said to show that no mere debt collecting Agency, to which category Mr. Thos. Hunt consigns the Labour Department, would undertake to follow up such matters to the bitter end as we make a point of doing, not for the sake of money recovered, but in order to show by example to defaulters that they do not always get off scot free by robbing our subscribers.

(Signed) AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

Madras, 25th December, 1917.

IMPORT OF OUTSIDE TEA INTO BRITISH INDIA.

In Planting Notes published in the *Madras Mail* on January 2nd instant. X refers to the Resolution proposed by Mr. Fraser (Anamallais) seconded by Mr. Dandison (Nilgiris) and carried unanimously and forwarded to Government, as having received no reply—

"That the Government be respectfully requested to prevent the "importation of all outside Tea into India, with increasing "consumption will afford some measure of relief in the position "caused by war conditions and the present restriction of "Exports reading as follows :—

This Resolution was sent to the Government of Madras on September 8th 1917 supported by a verbatim report of the speeches of the Proposer and Seconder.

The reply, which was received on the 22nd November from the Acting Secretary to Government, by an unfortunate oversight was not published in the *Chronocle* reads as follows :—

"The Resolution of the United Planters' Association of Southern India "will be forwarded to the Government of India."

As no further communicatiou has been received from the Madras Government, it must be inferred that the matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTIFICATION.

Since the Food Controller proposes to purchase up to only 40% of the 1917 crop of each estate, all Agents or estates shipping tea consigned to the Food Controller under the present temporary arrangements, pending the conclusion of contracts with estates and the allotment to each estate of the specific quantity of tea to be supplied on the 40% basis, are requested to insure that the total quantity of tea shipped to the United Kingdom by any one estate from 1st November 1917 does not exceed 40% of its production during the year 1917.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 814 T. C.—914 T. C., dated the 18th December 1917.

Copy forwarded to Secretary, United Planters' Association, Bangalore for information.

Tea Commissioner for India.

Government Tea Purchase.

Copy of telegram dated the 18th December, 1917 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"954 T.C. 25 million pounds tea at Chittagong tonnage insufficient. Can you arrange allocate additional tonnage this port. Understand steamers allotted for Tuticorin. Calicut, Cochin, for January shipments have been withdrawn. Essential tonnage should be provided. Please telegraph what has been arranged. Liners Conference here have not yet received instructions to accept tea on your account without prepayment freight. Please expedite instructions.—TEACOM."

Memo No. 969-974 T.C. Dated the 18th December, 1917.

Copy forwarded to the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Ootacamund, Nilgiris.

(Sd.) W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Government Purchase of Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 987-88 T.C.

From

LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

THE PRESIDENT,
Exchange Banks Association,
National Bank of India, Ltd., Madras,
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,
Clive Street, Calcutta.

Dated the 19th December, 1917.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that teas consigned to the Food Controller, under his scheme for the purchase in India of tea for consumption in the United Kingdom will not be insured against Marine and War

risks, such teas being taken over by Government F.O.B. at the port of shipment, after which they will be carried at the responsibility of Government. I shall be grateful if you will be so good as to inform the Madras/Calcutta Exchange Banks accordingly.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 989-92 T.C. dated the 19th December, 1917.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of 25, South Parade, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 19th December, 1917 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Block B-3 Clive Buildings, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"1003 TC. Am temporarily passing payment for Madras teas shipped by Cheviot Range at six pence or six annas as estates want money urgently. Under temporary arrangement with Controller Currency pending orders of India producers will themselves draw bills of exchange with documents attached charging brokerage stamp duty and cost of drawing bills. India have approved my engaging Griggs Colombo broker as whole time Madras expert on rupees fifteen hundred provided you sanction arrangement. Approval solicited if you still want teas examined here. Impossible to get whole time man for less. Have arranged five part time experts for Calcutta and Chittagong on 750 rupees each if required. Certain gardens will not have forty per cent. of crop to tender having already sold bulk of crop. Should I make up deficient percentage from other gardens having more than forty per cent. of tea to tender else you will probably not get full required percentage of whole Indian crop."—"TEACOM."

Memo. No. 1004T.C.—1015T.C., dated the 19th December, 1917.

Copy forwarded by post in confirmation to Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta,

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

Pending the conclusion of contracts with estates and the working out of the rates at which tea tendered to the Food Controller will be paid for, the Tea Commissioner has decided to pass the bills for teas consigned to the Food Controller under the interim arrangements at the following flat rates per area of production in Northern India:—

Assam	As.	8/3
Cachar, Sylhet and Chittagong	,,	7/-
Darjeeling	,,	10/3
Duars	,,	7/9
Terai	,,	7/6
Chota Nagpur	,,	6/-

The rates are based roughly on the Calcutta sale averages for 1911, 1912 and 1913 plus one half penny for increased cost of production. Any differences between these rates and the prices as finally fixed for each estate will be adjusted at the time of making the contracts with estates.

W. M. KENNEDY, LT.-COL.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo, No. 1025/1061 T.C. dated the 19th December, 1917.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary United Planters' Association, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 1949 T.C.

From

LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dated the 28th December, 1917.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the statements relating to Rob Roy and Peravanthanam Estates forwarded with your letter of the 24th instant.

I hope to get down to Madras in about a fortnight's time, if I can get an Assistant here before then. I shall give the Advisory Committee timely notice. I want to meet the Members if possible. Mr. Eccles, Collector of Customs, Madras, has been appointed my Assistant for Madras. Kindly let your Members know this.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copies of telegrams from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, dated 28th December 1917 to the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Ootacamund.

(1). "1952 T. C. Your telegram dated 22nd instant. Am calling for tenders from Northern India and am very anxious to call for tenders from South India immediately. Can you give approximate figures of total South Indian crop 1917 and estimated crop 1918 we can then work out percentage of tea to be called for—TEACOM.

(2). "1964 T. C. In order to avoid petty calculations in case of Teas sold Calcutta have in consultation with Tea Association laid down first rate of decimal '08 of an anna to be deducted on account difference between sale and shipping charges. Wish to lay down similar flat rate for South India teas sold in Colombo and have wired Teanut for average sale and shipping charges per pound. Do you agree. Will consult you and Advisory Committee before prescribing rates—TEACOM."

Copy of telegram from the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Ootacamund, to Tea Commissioner, Calcutta, dated 29th December 1917.

1952 1964. Will be impossible to get figures collected before first week in January at earliest. These will then have to be checked by Committee. Suggest you should not call for tenders till after you meet Advisory Committee. Safe to assume forty per cent of 1917 crop will not exceed 14 million. Agree your suggestion flat rate to be deducted for teas sold in Colombo but would it not be simpler to alter Colombo sale price to London equivalent and treat all gardens on same basis-Barber.

Copy of telegram from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, dated 29th December 1917 to the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Ootacamund.

"2047T.C. Your telegram 29th instant. You will do well if you get figures of 1917 and 1918 crops by first week January. Rough check by Committee would be sufficient. It would be better to call for tenders before meeting Advisory Committee but agree that this may not be possible. As regards Colombo sales being treated on same footing as London sales this would be simple but would not estates selling Colombo object to deduction of nineteenths penny as excessive. If we can arrange flat rate for difference between Colombo sale charges and also flat rate deduction to be made on account of cess and transit charges between Tuticorin and Colombo sale warehouses it should not be different to fix prices of estates selling in Colombo. Much obliged for all your trouble.—TEACOM."

Post copy of telegram from the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Ooty, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, dated 31st December 1917.

"Your 2047. In suggesting London equivalent of Colombo prices I meant the equivalent that brings the same number of Rupees to producer. Am posting you to-day a table of equivalents at one-four one-fourth (1/4-¼) exchange. Will it not put Colombo selling estates at a disadvantage with Ceylon and other South Indian Estates if Tuticorin Colombo charges are included.—BARBER."

Copy of telegram dated the 19th December, 1917 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number two your telegrams dated 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th and 16th instant. All tea will be paid for by you full invoice value whether London controlled or locally controlled except teas in ships clearing from Indian Ports on or after November first and up to fourteenth December inclusive which will be paid for by Food Controller here unless you have already paid for any such. This arranged with the Association here on seventeenth December. Advice any such shipments for which you have paid. The Sterling F.O.B. price for the London controlled teas you are paying for should be converted into Rupees at rate Exchange 1/4 the rupee. Government shipments will not be insured. As regards Indian controlled concerns selling Calcutta deduct account sale charges and add cost of putting on board. You may fix flat rate for difference between Calcutta sales and F. O. B. price if you can. In cases of concerns selling crops or portions

thereof outside London or Calcutta markets or new concerns with no prewar averages bais of valuation will be prices paid for similar teas or at your discretion as to value meanwhile similarly Southern Indian. It is desirable that as far as possible your experts examine every grade and that they should satisfy themselves that same is up to standard quality. Teas will not be examined here by experts to check quality but will only be inspected in order to deduct damage in transit or defective packing. Suggest as regards percentage to be bought from Southern India that you call for tenders on estimated 1918 crop and contract for quantity equivalent to forty per cent of 1917 crop including tea shipped via Colombo. Prohibit export of common tea and dust to England for manufacture of Caffine. All tonnage available needed for Government tea. Prohibit small parcels of Tea being sent by post to private persons. All tea imported from India to United Kingdom must be Government controlled. Arrangement will be made here with London firms for payment for teas bought by London buyers in Calcutta and shipped under Licenses issued with validity up to February twenty second. You arrange with Jardine Skinner & Co., for purchase of forty per cent. of crop from Cachar and Dooars Tea & Co. Ltd. Also Bengal United Tea Co. Ltd. After December 31st unassorted tea not essential for war office requirements. You arrange with Lloyd to pick out good self drinking tea from various gardens. Care must be taken however that the average price of teas selected is not over nine pence half penny f.o.b. Indian ports. Number each cable with special series consecutive numbers and we will do same."

"Foodminders."

Memo. No. 1146—1000 T. C., dated the 20th December, 1917.

Copy of telegram dated the 20th December 1917 from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Delhi, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"1777d following from Secretary of State begins agreement finally arrived at is as follows:—In case of English tea companies all tea in vessels cleared before December fifteenth will be paid for in Sterling. For tea in vessels cleared on or after that date. Sterling price will be converted to rupees at one shilling and four pence and draft for Sterling equivalent of amount so calculated will be drawn by Tea Commissioner for Indian tea companies and privately owned estates. Whole purchase price will with effect from November first be paid in rupees converted when necessary at one and four ends."

"COMMERCE."

Memo. No. 1405 T. C.—45 T. C., dated the 21st December, 1917.

Bopy forwarded to Secretary, United Planters' Association, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 20th December 1917 from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Delhi to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

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Memo No. 1405 T. C.—45 T. C., dated the 21st December 1917.

(Signed) M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram from the Tea Commissioner, Calcutta, to the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Ootacamund, dated 22—12—17.

1674T.C. Your telegram 21st. Exchange Banks must arrange to negotiate Bills which should be presented to them as usual. Exchange Banks here advise that course. If Southern India Exchange Banks delay in negotiating Bills drawers should wire me when I shall ask Controller Currency to intervene. Yes six annas rate only temporary and will be adjusted when contract rates fixed. Liners Conference here making same difficulty about issuing Bills of Lading. Food Controller has distinctly informed me that he will pay freight in England. Have cabled him again to expedite orders to Liners Conference. I have no authority to pay 15 per cent of freight but have seen President Liners Conference to-day and he will wire Madras Steamers Agents to release Bills of Lading for Cheviot Range without prepayment of freight on my giving guarantee if necessary that Food Controller will pay freight London at rates agreed upon him with Liners. Rates paid for tea are f.o.b. so shippers are responsible for teas till they are put on Board including responsibility for risk from warehouse to steamer.—TEACOM.

Copy of telegram dated the 22nd December 1917 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller London.

"3FC. Great inconvenience being caused to shippers Government, tea per Mandala from Calcutta and Cheviot Range from Madras because steamer agents refusing to issue Bills of Lading without prepayment freight so shippers cannot draw Bills of Exchange. Liners Conference here have received cable from London Conference that on and after first January private shipments of tea must be refused and only Government tea accepted at 125 shillings per ton but private shipments from India already prohibited and Government tea only being carried by all steamers beginning with Mandala and Cheviot Range. On my offering to give written guarantee if necessary that you will pay freight on teas by above steamers at such rates as are arranged by you with London Liners Conference, President Conference here has agreed to instruct steamer agents to release Bills of Lading without prepayment freight."—"TEACOM."

Memo No. 1662/65 T.C., dated the 22nd December, 1917.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

(Signed) W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 24th December, 1917 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"4 F.w. In case of teas warehoused over one month after special date of arrival presume I pay insurance as well as warehouse charges as is now done in case of War Office teas."—TEACOM.

Memo No. 1705/08 T.C. dated the 24th December, 1917.

Copy forwarded to the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 24th December 1917 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"5F. C. Teanut Colombo wires that you desire him to fix prices and arrange contracts of Southern India concerns selling Colombo. Do you wish him or me to do so." Think I had better fix prices else there may be confusion. Can ask him to check sale prices if necessasy."

"TEA COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA."

Memo. No. 1712—23T. C., dated the 24th December, 1917.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 24th December, 1917 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

"Number four your telegram dated December twenty-second making every effort for extra tonnage for Chittagong also South Indian Ports. Instructions sent to Liners Conference December twenty-second. You make best arrangements possible for shipment until January first giving Guarantee where necessary. Please send Duplicate Bill of Lading on same ship as consignment of teas. Original Bill of Lading send as usual but guard against original and Duplicate being on some ship. Bills should be drawn by you on Food Ministry at four months from date of Draft.—FOODMINDERS."

Memo No. 1806/29 T.C. Dated the 26th December, 1917.

To the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber, Ootacamund.

Copy of telegram dated the 26th December 1917 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"6F. C. Your number four Pending final orders from India Shippers are themselves drawing bills of Exchange in triplicate with Bills of Lading, etc., attached, which will be sent to you by three successive mails. Invoices

being checked and countersigned by me.—TEA COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA."

Memo. No. 1776/93 T. C., dated the 26th December, 1917.

Copy forwarded to the Hon'ble Mr. E. F. Barber.

(Signed) W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of letter No. 79 C. T./17/3 dated the 18th December, 1917 from the Controller of Traffic, Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), Delhi, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

With reference to your No. 531 T. C./A dated the 13th December 1917, I write to inform you that railways have been given instructions to treat tea for shipments purchased on behalf of the Food Controller in the United Kingdom preferentially as regards despatch by rail and send you a copy of the instructions issued to railways for your information.

Copy of letter No. 79 C. T./17/2 dated the 18th December, 1917 from Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Cameron, R.E., Government of India, Railway Department, (Railway Board) to the Agent, Assam Bengal, B. & N.W., B.N., E.B.S., E.I., M. & S.M., S.I., and Bengal Dooars, T.E., Port Commissioner.

In continuation of my No. 23 C.T./17 of 7th September 1917, I write to inform you that it has been decided that tea purchased on behalf of the Food Controller in England shall be treated in the same manner as regards preference as items shown in para 5. The Tea Commissioner for India whose address is Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta, has asked me to issue instructions to Railways regarding this preferential treatment in order that there should be no failure to utilise tonnage allotted for tea shipments. I shall be obliged therefore if you will be so good as to issue instructions to your staff with a view of seeing that the despatches of tea should not be delayed when in transit by rail.

Ootacamund,
24th December, 1917.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Re-Organization of the U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—I like Mr. Hayward's letter in your issue of the 22nd instant—it is short.

To the first man I would say, look forward as none of us knows what the future has in store.

To the second look back and reflect that you have been letting other men do your work with never a hand's turn from you to help.

To the third, cut your losses and quit, for the struggle for existence in the future may be too heavy for you, if you cannot afford that pittance now.

Yours faithfully,
E. F. BARBER.

Peravanthanam Estate,
Mundakayam,
S. India.
28--12—17.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Reorganisation U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Hayward's letter of the 13th instant appears to me very much to the point. To answer his queries as they seem to apply to men in this District.

I. We are most of us lucky enough to have no labour troubles, and all of us anxious to loyally support the Local Association and the U. P. A. S. I, if we are not forced out of them. At present our position is, that if we want a Mycologist, we can jolly well pay for him ourselves. And if we don't want a Labour Department, we can also pay for this, for the sake of our brother planters. *i.e.* we are to help them with the Labour Department and they are *not* to help us with a Mycologist, Heads I win, tails you lose.

II. This imaginary person who subscribes to the Labour Department but not to his Association, ought to follow Punch's advice to "Come inside."

III. There appears no remedy for this gentleman, but I doubt his existing at all, except as a bogey to be destroyed. At the same time, if Mr. Hayward seriously suggests that there are cases where 1/4 an acre cannot be afforded, then I suppose the owner of the estate had better save his money, and perhaps he will not be such a great loser.

Yours faithfully,
H. H. KIRK.

The Kanan Devan Hills Produce Co., Ltd.
(Incorporated in Great Britain).
Mattupatti P.O.,
Via Periakolam,
South India.
21st December, 1917.

I. D. Force.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—As the letter from the D.A.A.G. for I.D.F., 9th Division, appearing in the *Planters' Chronicle* of the 1st instant is likely to give the impression that the complaints I had to make about the calling out of men under the Indian Defence Force Act were irrelevant, and the trouble and inconveniences I was put to was due to my having neglected to represent the matter to the proper quarters, I should like to give a word of explanation.

On receiving the preliminary selection of groups referred to by the D. A. A. G., I immediately wrote to the Officer Commanding the S. P. M. R. explaining that the grouping would completely disorganize the working of the Companies I represent, and received the following reply from the Adjutant of the Corps:—

"Headquarters, Madras,

"13—8—17.

"From

"The Adjutant,

"S. P. M. R.

"To

"H. L. Pinches, Esq.,

"Madupatty.

"Re: yours of the 3rd instant to the Officer Commanding your wish "regarding the re-grouping of men is noted, and will be carried "out accordingly.

"Arrangements for the expenses of wives and children of men who "are called out on General Service are under consideration, and "we await further from Army Headquarters!"

My complaint, however, is not against the arrangements made by the Selection Committees who, I think, have done their best to safeguard the interests of the Planting Industry.

What I had to protest against was that we were not informed of the Selection Committee's grouping till after the first and second groups were called out, and that sufficient notice was not given to the men in the first and second groups.

Regarding my complaint of the treatment in Madras accorded to the men in the first group, in a letter to the General Officer Commanding the Southern Brigade, I have given details substantiating my statement, and I do not think any good purpose would be served by publishing them. I fancy every Planting District that supplied S. P. M. R. Members to the first and second groups knows that my complaint was not groundless.

In my speech on the Indian Defence Force Act at the last U.P.A.S.I. Meeting, the question of the position of wives and families of Planters called up under the Act was one that I suggested should be discussed at the Conference I proposed between the Government Military Authorities and Planters, and had such Conference been held, much of the delay and hardship in this and other matter could have been avoided.

We are now asked to submit some definite proposal, and I think we should ask for an allowance that will enable the married planter to send his wife and family to Madras or a Hill Station during the time he is on service.

For the information of married planters liable to be called out, I append a copy of a communication from the S. P. M. Rifles to a Member of the first group called out.

"5th December, 1917.

"Please furnish at your earliest convenience your marriage and birth
"certificates for the information of the Officer Commanding "A"
"Company, Second General Service Battalion, Indian Defence
"Force for purposes of separation allowance."

Yours faithfully,
H. L, PINCHES.

Madras Harbour,
Dated, 2nd December, '17.

TO THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chornicle

Storage Space in Madras.

Sir,—A few weeks ago, before I had left Ootacamund, I saw a notice in the *Madras Mail* to some such effect as that the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce objected to my offering special storage space at Madras for tea waiting for steamers for export, on the ground that they had plenty of as good godown accommodation at Tuticorin as we have at Madras. I know nothing about that, it may possibly be quite true, although it is not quite the same thing to have your tea stacked within 20 or 30 paces of ships' hatches and having to carry it by lighters over five or six miles of sea. However, to set all that aside, I would like to say what I feel sure the great Duke of Wellington, noted for his kindly courtesy, and in his way an old Madrasee like myself, would have said in my place; *viz.*, that I don't care "a tuppenny dam" whether the planters ship their tea from Madras Quays or from Tuticorin lighters——or, for that matter, by aeroplane if it suits them. It isn't of a paltry few thousands of rupees in the Madras Port Trust account that I am thinking, but simply and solely how to make things a bit easier for the planter men——indeed for Indian trade generally. It seemed to me to be possible that, for the purpose of advances against produce stored for shipment, the Bankers or Government might possibly see advantages in the tea, coffee, rubber, cardamoms or whatever it was, being stacked in the most modern and safe kind of warehouses, under reliable control, and it was this accommodation that I offered to the U. P. A. S. I. But the last thing in the world I had in mind was whether the Madras Port Trust was going to make anything appreciable out of the transaction. Tuticorin and Cochin and a score of other ports may have the whole of it for all I care so long as the planters are well served. For if all such produce business continues to go strong there will be enough general prosperity all round, in the next 20 years, to justify the building of another half a dozen two-million-sterling harbours around our coast. I may conclude by saying that for the last 20 years, since my direct connection with Madras began, I have kept rubbing in this doctrine, in season and out of season, in connection not only with harbours but also with railway extension schemes. That is, I have continually tried to get people to look on all such schemes largely and imperially instead of locally and parochially. When the presumed rivalries of the proposed Vizag, Tuticorin, Cochin, and Mangalore harbours have been mooted, and when broad gauge connection with Adam's Bridge, and Adam's Bridge itself, have come under discussion, I have over and over again had people asking me whether we of Madras ought to support such schemes. Invariably I have argued that, the one and only wise policy in such matters is to *think big*, to drop petty parochialism, and to recognise that what we

have got to look for is all round trade development and improvement, and then the more harbours we have and the more railways we have the better off will everyone be all round, Zemindars, ryots, planters, traders, merchants, (and who knows, even Vakils !), and on top of all this comes the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce suggesting that I was trying to crib some poor little traffic from them ! Lord ! !

F. J. E. SPRING,
Chairman,
Madras Port Trust.

Harbour, Madras,
December 1917.

Mercara.

Coffee Markets.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—An announcement of some importance to coffee planters has recently been published, prohibiting the importation of coffee into India, thus removing, for the time being, competition with our Home grown products. It is to be hoped that this prohibition extends to the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia.

The ground is now cleared, and full protection offered us for our operations. It is up to us, and I think the Government will expect us to take full and prompt advantage of this prohibition, while it is in force—for we cannot expect it to continue after the embargo is taken off our coffee.

Now is the time to step in with an organisation on commercial lines, to pick up the interrupted trade in foreign coffee, and substitute our Home grown product, through the principal towns in India, as Bombay, Karachi, Delhi, Allahabad, Lucknow and Calcutta where, it seems this trade flourished. Eventually we might extend our operations to Mesopotamia. Arabs from Bombay and the Persian Gulf are, even now, exploiting the chief Indian coffee market, Mangalore, taking advantage of our difficulties, combining to suppress competition, and fixing their own prices which leave little or no profit for the planter and, at present, they find us helpless. If we do not look out it will be a repetition of the London market with its "Ring" of middlemen who rule the coffee-market and absorb the greater part of the profits that should accrue to the producer.

As matters are, these Arab and other dealers who have nothing to do with the production of coffee, will mostly reap the benefit of the prohibition intended for us. Are we going to supinely allow this? Will not some of our community with experience in business organisations take the matter up and work the suggestion into shape. I would suggest broadly 1st that a Board of Control be elected by the Coffee Planting Community from among themselves, 2nd a good business Manager, expert in commercial matters, be engaged with an office staff, and locate him in an important centre, 3rd appoint Agents in all the principal towns above mentioned under the direct control of the General Manager who would, in fact, appoint them after he was installed, and who would himself take instructions from the Board of Control in general matters of policy and finance, which they in turn would

formulate and arrange in consultation with their confreres the coffee planting community. A member elected from each coffee district with a whole time paid Secretary and office in—say—Mangalore might constitute the Board of Control. The General Manager might be located either in Bombay or Calcutta.

As regards financing this scheme, the business of controlling the sale of our produce should be just as much a part and parcel of our operations as the producing and preparing of it, and on our working estimates we ought to make just as much provisions for the former as for the two latter. The heading of expenditure should be (A) cost of production (B) cost of preparation (C) cost of sale of produce. In arranging it thus, we should merely be paying in advance, the charges usually deducted from the gross prices in account sales rendered by our agents. For instance we generally calculate £7 to £10 per ton for charges in connection with sales in normal times which allow for freight, insurance, warehousing, discounts and commissions (at present it is a great deal more). If this sum were placed to the credit of the sale department annually the price obtained for our coffee would be nett returns.

Given a sound organisation and an efficient and energetic Manager the effect on the movement of our produce should be immediately felt. At present it stagnates and we wait on buyers who won't buy !

India produces annually from 4,000 to 6,000 tons of coffee, which at the rate of £10 per ton would provide 6 to 9 lakhs of rupees for the expenses in connection with this department which should be ample for salaries, office costs, agencies, carriage of produce, and freight (if shipped) advertisement, &c., and would only mean paying it in advance instead of having it deducted from your sale prices.

There would be plenty of occupation for the whole staff all the year round advertising, gathering in customers, salting fresh markets and arranging for the distribution of our coffee crops when they come in. Does this all sound nonsense ?

Yours faithfully,

G. K. MARTIN.

P.S.—I might add that—if successfully captured—the Indian and Mesopotamian markets would more than suffice for the consumption of all the coffee we can produce (India alone would be enough.)

We could be entirely independent of the European markets, and could snap our fingers at the Food and Shipping Controllers. If a famine in East India coffee arises in Europe, let it. We will teach them to consider us of no "National importance" ! Nor would the exchange question affect us. In with your names then, gentlemen, in support of the scheme, and let us advertise for a good up-to date Manager as a first step, offer a liberal remuneration and a free hand to organise the business. The rest will follow. Contributions at the rate mentioned from 2 or 300 tons would start the "show."

G. K. M.

Extract from the monthly report of the Government Mycologist for November 1917.

* * * * *

At Yercaud I was fortunate enough to see a patch of root disease on coffee and to get a specimen with two sporophores of Polypores australis, and one with Hymenochetae noxia. The former seems to be doing the bulk of the damage here. On the first coffee stump a fructification had grown while the stump was upright in the ground, and another had developed after it was uprooted and was lying on the ground. Another was developing just below the last, and since it was brought to the laboratory has matured. This proves conclusively the necessity of destroying the dead stumps. A patch of about 50 dead coffee bushes were dead and a Silver Oak had just died. All had the same appearance as the one with the sporophores of Polypores australis and were exactly like the case studied in the Nilgiri District. The capital value of a coffee bush was considered to be 8 as. thus 25 rupees had been lost. It was concluded that that sum would not be required to take the ordinary precautions of trenching and liming. A specimen of fomes lucidus on a dying tree of Albizzis (Mollucana ?) was sent me. This district seems to be a good one for growing fruit and vegetables both with regard to climate and position relative to markets. A good deal of experiment work has been done by various planters—sufficient I think to warrant the cultivation of both on a large scale. Apples, pears, peaches and citrus fruits grow well and are of good quality, while the vegetables are as good as the best I have seen on the Nilgiris. There are about 6 varieties of apples that do well and though they are not up to standard of the best apples of the Western Temperate Zone, yet they are very good apples, and well worth putting one's teeth into. Experiment with these has gone far enough ; they should now be grown. The one mycological danger at present is root disease which undoubtedly comes from stumps and roots of certain jungle trees. A Boothugani (Symplocos spicata) was found dying near the edge of the jungle beside a clearing in which apple trees were dying from root disease. The roots were covered and penetrated with a fungus as the apple roots were. Microscopic examination revealed the fact that the two fungi were indistinguishable. This tree is dreaded by planter both in Yercaud and the Nilgiris. Kumatti (probably Nephelien longana) is another. I was told of half a dozen more which when cut down cause the coffee around them to die within a year or two. This is a subject well worth careful study as it would be of the greatest benefit if dangerous trees were known definitely so that they might be uprooted entirely in a clearing and the harmless ones left alone. For want of that knowledge all are left. In an orchard the only safe thing to do is to dig deep and remove all roots. Even this is cheaper in the long run than removing dead apple trees when they are coming into bearing and replacing them. Bitter experience has shown that it is unwise to get out good varieties of apples from Australia, America and Europe and grow them in the ground. Root disease destroys them all. A particularly disappointing case was one in which 250 imported young apple plants had been planted close together in two rows in a nursery ; every one was killed by root-disease. Local stocks should be grown, and the young apple grafts grafted on them. Where this has done the result has been satisfactory. The fact that the local stock has survived shows that it is not so liable to root-disease. A pear called poire de litre, because it weighs a pound, grown very well without much attention. It is a cooking pear. I walked through a field where I was told the only cultivation was grassknifing twice a year and the produce of trees was sold in situ at Rs. 2-8-0 a tree. As there were about 10,000

trees in somewhat less than 100 acres, the income was substantial. That kind of experience gives good hopes of growing better kinds of pears as it is done in Kulu. Wooly aphis is another danger to fruit trees, and it is not uncommon.

The chief difficulties of growing vegetables are those due to insects, chiefly cut-worm. Several people have begun to grow potatoes and those I saw were of good quality and size. There is a little scab and some ring disease as well as early blight. The first and the last are controllable by fungicides, but the second is not and consequently is the one to be most carefully watched. After Mr. Anstead gave his, I gave a short address at the Meeting of the Planters' Association on the subject.

Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

Dated 23rd December 1918.

An estimate is being prepared of the trade demands for all commodities of urgent national importance which will be made on the United States of America during the first six months of 1918. In order that this may be complete all those who expect to make such demands should supply before the 10th January 1918 direct to the Secretary, Indian Munitions Board, Delhi, a clear statement of their proposed order giving quantity, tonnage and value of each commodity separately. Similar information is also required of orders already placed in the United States for which early delivery is desired. As no demand will be included in the estimate unless it is clearly of urgent national importance, full particulars in this respect should be supplied. As there is no time for correspondence all statements should be complete and clearly set out otherwise the demand will not be included.

(By Order.)
(Signed) G. H. JACKSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

To all Chambers of Commerce at Madras, Tuticorin, Cochin and Cocanada.
To the Madras Trades Association, Madras.
" Southern India Skin and hide merchants Association, Madras.
Copy to the Editors, " Madras Mail," "Madras Times," The Hindu, New India and Justice.
" Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.
" Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
" President of the Priority Committees, Madras.
Forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

(By Order.)
(Signed) W. A. KRISHNAMACHARI,
Acting Deputy Registrar.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. NO. 2.] JANUARY 12, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, and the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., returned from Calicut on the morning of the 12th where they had been attending a Committee meeting of the Local Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association in connection with the suggested restriction of the output of rubber for 1918. The Chairman in opening the meeting referred to the well-merited honour lately bestowed on Sir Fairless Barber to whom a congratulatory telegram was sent. The idea of the restriction of rubber, if explanations from the parent Association were satisfactory, was generally approved of.

We publish a further instalment from the Director, Labour Department.

We reprint the address presented by the Chairman and the Planting Member to the Viceroy and the Secretary of State in the name of the U. P. A. S. I.

After the presentation of the address Mr. Tipping joined the deputation and a short interview took place as recorded by him. In conjunction with the Chairman he drew up a paper on the position of coffee.

In the name of the Association the Chairman gives expression to their warm congratulations to Sir Fairless Barber.

The question of the proposed Re-Organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. takes up a large space and will, we hope, lead to further discussion.

The rest of the paper is taken up with letters and telegrams on the Food Controller's Tea Purchase Scheme.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

Amount previously subscribed ...	...	...	Rs.	68,117	6 7
Mr. Stephen Bayley ...	...	...	„	10	0 0
„ A. J. Wright, Munnar ...	...	...	„	20	0 0
„ Campbell Hunt	...	...	„	30	0 0
Messrs. T. Stanes & Co., Ltd. ...	...	...	„	250	0 0
Mr. L. Price	...	...	„	50	0 0
			Rs.	68,477	6 7

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

In order that fuller information on the subject of the service of warrants may be on record in the *Chronicle*, I give the following table published in G. O. 1074/17 dated 21-9-17 for Breach of Contract Warrants received for execution in Coimbatore District during the previous year.

					Warrants unexecutable as										
	Total of warrants received.	Cases withdrawn.	Warrantees returned to Estates.	Warrantees paid their dues.	Balance.	Warrantees died.	Warrantees in Jail.	Warrantees outside jurisdiction.	False names and addresses given.	Balance being executable warrants.	Executed.	Percentage.	Balance unexecuted warrants.	Of these number time barred,	Of these number pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Labour Department ...	577	2	77	30	468	9	1	39	41	378	225	59·5	143	65	88
Through Labour Department to Police ...	61	1	...	1	59	...	...	3	24	32	28	87·5	4	...	4
Direct to Police ...	744	...	89	4	651	8	...	107	323	213	152	71·3	61	17	44
Total ...	1382	3	166	35	1178	17	1	149	388	623	405	65	208	82	136

The Inspector-General of Police writes in his letter to Government dated 9th June 1917: "It may be observed that in cases of warrants sent to the Police either direct or through the Labour Department, the percentage of execution is much higher than the percentage of those dealt with by the Department."

According to this table it is clearly so, and one may wonder why we trouble so much about the execution of warrants, when the Police can show such a good record. Our point of view, and that of the Police, materially differs. The Police deduct from the warrants received for service by them the entries in Column 9 "warrantees outside jurisdiction" and Column 10

"False names and addresses", which they consider "unexecutable" and dismiss them as such. The Department follows up such cases, as I showed in my communication to the *Chronicle* of the 10th November 1917, page 578, viz: warrants returned unexecuted because of the warrantees being outside jurisdiction, by the Labour Department 6·7%, by the Police 13·7%, of false names and adresses, by the Labour Department 7%, by the Police 43·1%, which shows as I pointed out that the Department has much greater facilities for following up and tracing defaulters, than have the Police. Correspondence since the date of the *Chronicle* above referred to shows that some subscribers have not digested the facts. We have heard from one Estate that "it is useless to send warrants to the Departments." I therefore repeat the following small table:—

	Total warrants.	Satisfactory Results.	Percentage.
LABOUR DEPARTMENT—			
577 less 88 pending ...	489	344	70·3%
POLICE—			
805 less 48 pending ...	757	254	33·5%

The Report of the Inspector-General of Police sets out proof of the superiority of the Police. From his own figures we have shown the superiority of the Labour Department.

It must always be remembered that to serve a warrant it is not always a mere matter to finding the defaulter, but of overcoming the wilful obstruction of his sympathizers. Everyone in his village and even strangers, to whom he makes an appeal *ad misericordiam*, will harbour and assist him to evade the course of justice, and this increases the difficulties of the Police and the Department many fold.

All the figures given above relate to the period ending with the Government official year 31st March 1917.

The figures from the 1st of April to 30th September 1917 for warrants served through the Department are as follows:—Pending on 1st April 327, Received since 903, Total 1230 *less* pending on 30th September 361, Balance 869. Satisfactorily disposed of 633=72·8%. Of unexecuted warrants, 60 defaulters had emigrated, 61 had given false names and addresses, and 28 were time-barred. Without deducting the pending cases as has been done above, the percentage of satisfactorily disposed of warrants in each district work out as follows:—

Coimbatore	... 72%	Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district worked from Mysore and including Yelandur taluq of Mysore State...	40%
Malabar	... 83%		
Salem	... 80%		
Trichinopoly	... 74%		
Madura	... 63%	Mysore State ...	23%
		S. Canara ...	32%

The number of warrants in Anantapur, Chingleput, N. Arcot, S. Arcot, Chittoor and Tinnevelly are too small to be of general interest.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

Camp Chingleput,
1st January, 1918.

ADDRESS OF THE UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA (INCORPORATED) PRESENTED TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EDWIN SAMUEL MONTAGU, P. C., SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA BY SIR E. F. BARBER AND MR. J. S. NICOLLS ON THE 16TH DECEMBER, 1917:—

On behalf of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, being an Incorporated Association registered under the Indian Companies' Act, 1882, embracing thirteen Planting Associations of Southern India, we are of opinion that while we can leave any general political representations to the European Association, there are one or two points which are peculiar to our community to which we think due consideration should be given before any political changes are attempted.

That, as you are aware, Sir, the capital in our industry is almost entirely British capital. It cannot be moved as the capital invested in other industries may be, for it is literally sunk in the country, it is therefore respectfully submitted that those who have been induced to invest in the land, under conditions as they are, should be consul ed before those conditions are changed.

That the question of further capital has also to be considered. Planting in Southern India is capable of almost unlimited expansion for which, of course, further capital will be required, as also for the opening up of the country by the construction of roads, railways and other means of communication.

Under conditions of political change or uncertainty, capital is shy, and if the existing conditions of the Government be altered or even threatened, the planting industry will suffer serious injury, for it is only by further outlay and development that planters can hope to win the full benefits of their original investment.

That though it may be asked in what way any political change can affect planting, and though under existing conditions the Indian Government has not fostered planting as some Colonial and even Foreign Governments have done, still there has been a feeling of security which is entirely based on the belief in the future of India under direct British rule. It is true that money might have been cheaper and credit better, and had this been the case, there would have been fewer losses incurred in the past when certain branches of our industries found themselves in straitened circumstances.

That we need only touch briefly on those conditions of our existence which, if interfered with unduly, will affect our welfare:—

Firstly.—We are dependent on land. Any rules and regulations adverse to tenure, or any taxation of land beyond the proportionate incidence, would injure us.

Secondly.—We are dependent on labour. Any labour legislation of an extreme nature or any restriction in regard to recruiting might bring the industry to a standstill.

Thirdly.—We compete with others in the world's markets. We are already at a disadvantage in the matter of railways and harbours, but our position would indeed be hopeless, were tariffs raised against us and prohibitive duties placed upon our produce.

We have avoided undue length in setting our case before you, but we feel confident that every view of our circumstances will be carefully examined. Of course, we do not suppose that political changes will not come in India as they come elsewhere, but we are entitled to insist respectfully that those responsible will see that any changes are gradual and restrained, and suited to the needs of the country, its industries and its people.

same good feeling prevails here with the Members of Council and Heads of Departments: all of whom are not only always pleased to see the planter, but would prefer an interview to an often lengthy and sometimes unsatisfactory correspondence. In fact if there is any complaint, it is on the side of the officials, who do not see enough of the planter but too much of his correspondence. Where then is the advantage of going to Madras, when from a business point of view a far closer touch can be maintained with all Government Departments in Ooty, and with greater leisure and convenience to all concerned? Further, there is an additional advantage in our Headquarters being in this place, as it will be an important planting District, and generally speaking in a more central position as regards the whole planting interests, than either Bangalore or Madras. Lastly, it cannot seriously be maintained that physical and mental vigour are greater in Madras and that better continuous work can be carried on there than in these hills. I think taking all things into consideration, it will be admitted that Ooty has most of the desired conditions for the Headquarters of a go-ahead Association, while Madras stands self-condemned, from whatever point of view you look at the question.

(c). Among the criticisms one hears against the U. P. A. S. I., the most prominent are, that the Bangalore situation is too isolated to keep in sufficient touch with the planting community as a whole; that there is too much clerical work of an undigested and indefinite nature; that while the work is severe on all concerned, the methods are such as not to produce practical results; and finally that the U. P. A. S. I., is gradually tending to become a species of clearing station for passing on things, instead of being a decisive directing body. Now, whether the above impressions are correct or otherwise, they can be promptly met and disposed of by removing the causes that have led to them. To begin with, if Bangalore is not sufficiently in touch with the majority of planters, the situation would undoubtedly be made infinitely worse by the Association's removal to Madras; and the obvious remedy therefore lies in removing it to some large planting centre, and Ooty bears the palm in this respect. The remaining defects complained of can all be summarised into just two words, viz, Executive Committee, without the remotest reflection on their individual ability. The fault in the sytem lies in a Committee whose members are scattered all over Southern India, instead of being more or less in one place, and hence the endless correspondence, delay, and absence of finality in the work. Nobody is personally to blame for the existing state of affairs: it is the system and not the individual that is wrong. No Secretary, however experienced and hardworking, can be expected to take upon himself the daily risks and responsibilities of an important office, and be invariably infallible in the disposal of his duties. He must frequently refer for counsel and advice to the Chairman and Committee, and when these are not on the spot, much correspondence, waste of time, and often conflicting decisions and orders, must naturally follow such a procedure. The remedy in this case appears to me to lie in the appointment of a small Executive Committee of say five, residing in the neighbourhood of the U. P. A. S. I., and constituting the remaining district members now on the Committee, into an Advisory Council. The duties of the Executive Committee would be of a controlling and directing nature, comprising weekly or fortnightly meetings to minute on and dispose of current work, and to instruct and guide the Secretary regarding important questions. The latter would be referred to the Advisory Council, and when necessary to the whole of the members and the opinions received would then be digested and summarised, and a final decision given by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, in a practical

working form that could be easily understood and carried out by the whole of the U. P. A. S. I. The *Planters' Chronicle* would be largely utilised as a vehicle for conveying the committees' decisions and for disseminating information generally. The above is a mere outline of the changes suggested, but details could easily be worked out with necessary safeguards, and the whole scheme put on a practical basis, such as would make the U.P.A.S.I. a powerful directing body, whose lead would willingly be followed by all its members.

Lastly (d) regarding the Secretarial staff. All will agree that for continuous and concentrated work a whole-time staff is a necessity. This will entail an enhancement of the present Secretary's salary, and I think he deserves it, with the thanks of the members, for the way he has hitherto singlehanded carried out his many onerous duties. Considering the latter point, I am of opinion that under existing conditions the Secretary has to spread himself over far too much miscellaneous work, and is in consequence unable to devote special attention to any particular branch of his duties; and at any moment a particular subject may be of far more importance than the whole of his routine work put together. On such occasions the Secretary should be able to side-track himself as it were, and leave the routine duties to some other responsible member of his staff. Therefore, when there is a question of additions to his office, I would unhesitatingly recommend the appointment of a reliable European Assistant, rather than increase the ordinary clerical staff.

The summary of the whole of this unavoidably lengthy epistle amounts to this: (1) That the U. P. A. S. I. should be essentially a European organisation. (2) That the Headquarters of the Association would be most favourably situated in Ootacamund. (3) That the present management of the Association should be divided into a resident Executive Committee and a District Advisory Council. (4) That the Secretary should be a whole-time employee on an increased salary. (5) That an Assistant or Joint Secretary should be appointed to meet the growing work, and the altered conditions of the future reorganised U. P. A. S. I.

J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS.

Ootacamund,
1st January, 1918.

Daverashola Estate,
Devarshola P. O.,
Nilgiris,
January 3rd, 1918.

To

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I.

OR

Re-organization of the Labour Department.

Dear Sir,—I have always felt that it was wiser for me in my present position to keep out of print on any important matters concerning the "constitution of the U. P. A. S. I."

I think we should take the second of the two headings of this letter as subjective to the first, and that the Labour Department becomes fundamentally part of the U. P. A. S. I. (as suggested by Mr. Mead). I quote the following from Sir E. F. Barber's letter appearing in the *Planters' Chronicle* of December 15th :—

> " This suggestion then is not for the re-organization of the Labour " Department, but for the re-organization of the Association " itself, and the subscription paid would not be for any specified " purpose, labour, science and the like, but as subscription to the " General Funds of the Association to enable it to help us as we " most want to be helped".

I agree with this view.

It has been proposed that the subscription to the U. P. A. S. I, shall be such that would cover the present expenditure of that Body plus that of Labour Department. I admit this was a suggestion from the Control Committee of the Labour Department but it had to be arrived at, and the figures it had before it was the only practicable basis. At present the Labour Department is under the Control Committee, and if the Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I. was agreed to, it would then be under the control of the U. P. A. S. I., and no doubt this would mean a reduction in its expenditure. Mr. Mead has made a suggestion that there should be a scale of charges for the work done by the Labour Department. Would this guarantee the covering of the cost of working that branch of the U. P. A. S. I.? Perhaps there might be a profit, there might be a loss. If the latter, it would have to be covered. As an instance for this suggestion he gives the Analytical Branch of the Scientific Department. The expenditure of the Analytical Branch is not covered by its receipts. It is met out of the General funds of the U. P. A. S. I.

Any suggestion on the lines of Mr. Mead's that would bring additional funds to the exchequer of the U. P. A. S. I. and so give it greater financial strength, I for one would welcome.

But I do not think we shall get to any conclusion now by dividing up the separate Branches of the U. P. A. S. I. activities, and considering whether each pays for itself, and whether A is paying for something B gets and does not get himself. the total income of the U. P. A. S. I. probably gives A something, which he could not get if B did not subscribe to the U. P. A. S. I. I do not think we should look at this matter from a selfish or solely self-interested point of view, if so, I dream, and it is always a bad one.—That a few of the big subscribers, to the U. P. A. S. I., will withdraw from it and combine to do for themselves what the U. P. A. S. I., and the Labour Department is now doing for us all. Numerically the small proprietary planter may be stronger, but he would suffer and then regret that he failed to recognize that " Unity was essential."

Is a Labour Department essential? Sir E. F. Barber in his letter before quoted from says:—

> " I believe the time cannot be far distant when the Madras Govern- " ment will have to take a hand in regulating recruiting, and the " stronger and more wealthy our Organization is, the more likely " we are to make our voice heard and get our wants attended to.

"At the present moment the weakness of the Department is that it is "not fully representative of our S. Indian interests and that has "been the chief trouble it has had to contend with since its "inception."

I do not think any one can accuse Sir Barber of pessimism. He knows what he is talking about, and I read it as a warning and therefore he asks for a Labour Department fully representative of S. Indian interests. Such a Body might be able to defend itself, but as it is now, I fear not.

Lastly, I ask my brother planters to look to the future and to do all they can to obtain unity, so that when they are called upon to protect themselves, they will not be found wanting but in concord on all things.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. NICOLLS,
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

Resolution passed at the South Mysore P. A. Meeting held on the 20th December, 1917.

"The members of this Association are prepared to give their support to the proposed re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. on condition, that the Labour Department be thoroughly reorganised, somewhat on the lines suggested by the S. M. P. Association delegates at the last U. P. A. meeting—*i.e.*, that the local agencies be made more efficient, and less money spent at headquarters."—*Carried unanimously.*

Cowcoody, Somwarpet, P. O.,
N. Coorg, January 1st, 1918.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—Will any coffee planter kindly inform me whether they have had any more luck with their shipments to England or France than I have had? So far I have not had an anna credited to my account for insurance or sales and the only information I can get is that there is difficulty in getting hold of the "landed weights." I presume the buyer knows how much coffee he has bought. In the case of the Clan Sutherland which sailed about March 5th last, I cannot yet find out whether my cardamoms on board her were lost, damaged or sound. If all coffee planters are experiencing this treatment, surely this is a quite unnecessary worry added to the others.

Yours faithfully,

L. NEWCOME.

R. B. G. 486/16. Custom House, Madras,
2nd January, 1918.

From

P. ECCLES, ESQ., B. A., I. C. S.,
Collector of Customs, Madras.

To

Messrs. .....

Sirs,—In continuation of my letter R. B. G. 486/16 dated 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the following telegram has been received from the Tea Commissioner and I request you to be good enough to communicate the same to the owners of estates for whom you act as shipping agents.

Copy of telegram dated 31st December 1917 from Tea Commissioner to the Collector of Customs, Madras.

"Food controllers latest instructions are that bills of exchange should be drawn at four months from date of draft and not four months from sight."

I have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your most obedient servant,

P. ECCLES.
Collector of Customs.

T. P. No. Custom House, Madras,
4th January 1918.

From

P. ECCLES, ESQ., B. A., I. C. S.,

Collector of Customs, Madras.

To

All Tea Agency Houses and firms shipping teas to the United Kingdom consigned to the Food Controller.

Sirs,—The following instructions are issued to facilitate the counter-signature by the undersigned of invoices of cost, etc., required to be attached to Bills of Exchange.

(1) BILLS OF EXCHANGE:—Bills of Exchange should be drawn at four months from date of draft. They should be drawn in triplicate to which should be attached all relevant documents, *viz.*, Bills of Lading, invoices of cost and garden invoices. Invoices of cost and charges for all tea shipped have to bear my counter-signature before the Bills of Exchange are negotiated. Over and above the documents required to be attached to the Bills of Exchange, three spare copies of invoices of cost and charges and of the garden invoices should be forwarded to me, one for record in this office, one to be forwarded to the Food Controller and the third to be filed in the

office of the Tea Commissioner. In order to enable me to ensure that the tea has been actually shipped. Bills of Lading should be produced when the Bills of Exchange are presented for verification. The original Bill of Lading and copies not required by me will be returned immediately.

(2). INVOICE OF COST.—The invoice of cost is simply a bill of costs, and includes price of tea, cess, export duty, Brokerage on Bills of Exchange (if incurred) and stamp duty. In the invoices of cost it is unnecessary for the purposes of this office that the grades of tea should be entered, as such information is available from the garden invoices, but they should state (*a*) the mark and number on each package, (*b*) the name of estate and number of invoice (*c*) the number of packages (*d*) total net weight of tea in pounds (*e*) rate of payment (For the present a temporary flat rate has been arranged at six annas per lb. which will be adjusted later when the contract price is settled) and (*f*) total value.

(3). Stamp duty will be calculated at the rate of Rs. 10 for £1 as provided by the stamp act on the sterling amount of the bill. Before presentation of a bill for counter-signature, therefore, the sterling equivalent of the total amount of the bill at the current rate of exchange should be entered therein.

I shall be glad if you will be good enough to communicate the above instructions to the Estates on whose account you act as shipping agents.

I have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd,) ————.

for Collector of Customs.

4—1—18.

To

The Secretary,

U. P. A. S. I.,

Bangalore.

Copy of telegram dated the 31st December 1917 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number six your telegram dated twentyfifth twentyseventh twenty-eighth twentyninth. Government of India will advise you as regards shippers themselves drawing bills of exchange or whether you draw them. In case of teas not shipped one month after date of arrival at warehouse or one month after specified date whichever later you pay warehouse charges. No insurance will be effected on Government teas. Advise all sellers that no insurance on teas consigned to Food Controller is to be effected. We pay freight on consignments to Food Controller garden agents do not. Cancel cable number five. We are making contracts with all London controlled gardens including Southern Indian. You contract with locally controlled Indian concerns including Southern Indian although latter sold Colombo,

Tonnage probably available to United Kingdom from Bombay. You communicate with Calcutta Liner Committee as regards possible tonnage available. Would there be difficulty in railing tea from Calcutta to Bombay and what would be the approximate cost per pound for carriage. We only agree to shipment from Bombay as an emergency measure. Make every effort to ship as much as possible from Calcutta, Chittagong. Please cable detailed particulars of marks, number of chests, quantity of pounds of each mark of all shipments consigned to Food Controller."

Memo No. 2170-2240T. C. dated the 2nd January, 1918.

Copy forwarded to United Planters' Association, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block, B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, and Firms shipping teas to the United Kingdom consigned to the Food Controller.

With reference to this office letter No. 737 T. C. dated the 17th December 1917 to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association and Circular Memo. No. 1202-1350 T. C. dated the 20th December 1917, regarding the drawal of Bills of Exchange on the Financial Secretary Ministry of Food, for teas consigned to the Food Controller, instructions have been received from the latter that Bills of Exchange are to be drawn at four months from date of draft and not, as previously instructed at four months from sight. It is requested that these instructions may be carefully observed.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 2061-3121 T. C. dated the 31st December 1917.

To the United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

Coffee Markets.

Yercaud, 7—1—18.

U. P. A. S. I., Bangalore.

Heartily support Marti'ns coffee marketing scheme with twenty tons.—GOMPERTZ.

Mercara, 9—1—18.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I find I underestimated the amount of coffee produced annually in India. I had Coorg figures in my head when I write 4,000 to 6,000 tons. I believe it is more like 10,000 to 12,000 tons.

I may add with regard to my suggested organisation for capturing the markets in the East, that it need not be confined to coffee *producers.* Indeed, the co-operation of curing and other Firms, with whom we do business, would be necessary to make it an influential and successful organisation, and with this view I should name it "The South Indian Coffee Sellers Co-operative Agency" which would embrace all who have interests in coffee and the sale thereof.

Yours faithfully,

G. K. MARTIN.

Ootacamund,

3rd January, 1918.

Tea Expert.

Dear Colonel Kennedy,—Your telegram 2268T.C., dated 3rd. To a certain extent estates shipping to Colombo will save by delivery f. o. b. at an Indian Port but I look at the matter that the delivery is to be at some port and that it is immaterial to the Food Controller whether the Port be Colombo, Tuticorin, Cochin or Calicut and for that reason I do not think there should be any deduction made for teas that had hitherto been sold in Colombo. Further, I think that such a deduction might lead to confusion, for, I think, before the war a certain amount of tea has always been shipped from Calicut or Cochin to Colombo as well as from Tuticorin.

In regard to your telegram No. 2270 T. C. to which I have wired a reply I find that the text of the wire was as published in the *Planters' Chronicle*, it might be worth your while to make enquiry through the Telegraphic office to find out where the mistake occurred, for as far as I can make out the wires sent to others of the Advisory Committee were in order. However, I notice that 1917 instead of 1918 has been mentioned in two places.

Yours sincerely,

E. F. BARBER.

Lt. Col. W. M. KENNEDY, C. I. E., I. A.
Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3 Clive Buildings,
Calcutta.

Copy of telegram from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, dated 3rd January 1918 to The Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber, Ootacamund.

"2268 TC. Your telegram dated 31st December. Await your letter with table equivalents. From copy cable from Food Controller sent me by Teanut Colombo Controller apparently does not propose to deduct inter-

mediate charges from Tuticorin to Colombo in case of Ceylon sold teas but if estates formerly selling Colombo now ships teas to Food Controller from Madras Ports will they not be saved these charges and also teas cess which I understand was realised at Tuticorin.—TEACOM."

Post Copy for The Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

(Signed) E. F. BARBER.

Copy of telegram from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, dated 3rd January 1918 to the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber, Ootacamund.

"2270 T. C. copy of my telegram 1118 T. C., dated 20th December has been wrongly printed at page 680 *Planters' Chronicle* of 29th December. Should read begins Food Controller wires begins suggest as regards percentage to be brought from Southern India you call for tenders on estimated 1918 crop and contract for quantity equivalent to forty percent of 1917 crop ends to enable me to call for tenders I shall require particulars actual total crop 1917 and estimated total crop 1918 as certified by Committee. Please send this as soon as possible ends estimate of 1918 crop and actuals 1917 crop wanted. I can purchase the quantity of the 1918 which would represent forty percent of the 1917 crop. Similar mistake has been made in your letter and telegram printed in same issue.—TEACOM."

Copy of telegram from the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber, Ootacamund, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, dated 3rd January, 1918.

"Your wire 2270. Your telegram dated 20th December published in *Planters' Chronicle* as received. Barber."

Rubber.

The Chairman, U. P. A. S. I. has sent us the following telegrams received through the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce from the Rubber Growers' Association; and his reply thereto:

CHAIRMAN,

United Planters' Association of Southern India,

Daverashola Estate, Devarshola P. O., Ootacamund.

The following telegram Begins has been received from Ceylon Association London, dated 21st instant. At request of Rubber Growers' Association we send following which was unanimously approved by their Council. Begins His Majesty's Government and Allies are insisting upon a minimum consumption of all sea-borne commodities. At recent inter allied conference in Paris imports, Maritime transports and supplies section decided to create an organisation with a view inter alia to restrict imports in order to release as much tonnage as possible for transport of American troops. Concrete effect of this decision has yet to be realised but Council feel strongly that it is urgent duty of Association to support Government in their policy of releasing tonnage for conveyance of food and troops. It is felt that voluntary

action now upon part of producers may avoid more drastic measures by allied Governments and Council desires to impress upon members of Association and upon Rubber Growers in general urgent need of co-operative action. Unanimous decision of Council is that crop to be collected in year 1918 should be limited to 80% of that collected in 1917 or in any previous year showing a greater yield. Method of effecting reduction to be settled individually by proprietors according to particular conditions of each Estate. In order to meet case of young purchasers as well as Estates giving a low average yield 200 lbs. per acre in bearing during 1913 is to be taken as standard yield below which no reduction will be required. You are requested to signify your assent to proposal by forthwith returning to Association attached form duly filled up and at same time instructing managers of your Estates to give effect to reduction agreed upon. ends.

Form of assent to Council of Rubber Growers' Asscciation incorporated in compliance with circular letter from Council of Rubber Growers' Association incorporated, dated 20th December, 1917 and subject to conditions stated therein. I/we agree forthwith to reduce production of rubber for year 1918 to 80% of my/our production for 1917 or in any previous year showing a greater yield on understanding that this agreement should cease to be binding if by 1st February 1918 I have been notified in writing that less than half of Company members of Rubber Growers' Association have not similarly agreed. The Council of Association may by notice in writing authorise increase of total amount of crop to be produced. That I/we undertake to render to you as soon as available the figure of my/our total production for 1917 or alternative earlier year and will render particulars of my production month by month during 1918.

For and on behalf of.....Please forward copies to Planters' Association Estate Agents Association and Planters' Association of Southern India. ends.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman United Planters' Association of Southern India

Daverashola Estate, Devarshola P. O.,

Ootacamund.

The following telegram has been received from Rubber Growers' Association, London, dated twenty-first instant begins Rubber tin exports Committee advised nineteen December that henceforward grant of permits for shipments rubber to United States America whether from United Kingdom or overseas conditional on rubber being consigned to Rubber Association of America incorporated with marginal bill lading clause indicating name American owner of rubber. Consignment rubber to consuls general United States discontinued. Colonial Governors concerned will be requested amend outstanding permits for shipments rubber to United States from Colonies. Please notify above South India. ends.—CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo.

My telegraphic address Shola Devarshola. Your two wires am immediately placing matter before my council and members of Rubber Growers' Association. I welcome the initiative for reducing output coming from Association and think it a wise move.—Nicolls, Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. NO. 3.] JANUARY 19, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Scientific Department of the U. P. A. S. I. publishes an article on the Abnormal Leaf-fall of Hevea Rubber and a programme of Experimental work for 1918, with a short note on Estate Mycologists.

We publish the report of the Committee Meeting of the Local Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association held on the 10th instant at the Malabar Club. It will be noted that it is suggested to hold a Rubber Growers' Conference early in May at Cochin.

There is a short note on the Madras Exhibition as it attracted enquiries with an appeal to planters to take advantage of the advertisements.

The Director, Labour Department, contributes a further article on Civil Warrants. It constitutes a record of which he and his subordinates may be justly proud. It also contains amusing incidents which must relieve the monotony of himself and staff. If our readers don't find any, the faculty must be wanting.

The Editor, who lately visited the St. George's Homes at Kodaikanal and was agreeably impressed by the practical work done there, has much pleasure in reproducing "A Visitor's Impressions" from the Saint George Gazette. Many of us will remember Mr. Breeden's eloquent appeal to us two years ago, the response to which, from the evidence of our own eyes, we pronounce was well deserved. We know that gifts of tea and coffee would be gratefully received. The whole essence of these Homes is that the "Children are given a chance in life."

Our Correspondence Columns are full.

Mr. Brooke Mockett writes about the Prohibition of Coffee.

Some correspondence about Coffee Tenders with a suggestion by Colonel Nicholson might be of use to the small holder.

The re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I., Coffee Markets, Tea and Priority claims fill up the remaining space.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged ...	...	Rs. 68,477	6 7
Mr. H. L. Pinches	...	,, 200	0 0
		Rs. 68,677	6 7

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Abnormal Leaf-fall of Hevea Rubber.

PROGRAMME OF EXPERIMENTAL WORK FOR 1918.

During 1917 the following programme of work was carried out on four areas of Rubber varying from 105 acres to 30 acres.

(1) All dead branches, large and small, were cut out, big wounds being smoothed up and tarred.

(2) All old fruit pods hanging on the trees, with their fruit stalks, were removed.

(3) All leaves, fruits, twigs, and branches, on the ground were collected and burned, the refuse from the fires being buried.

(4) As many as possible of the new crop of fruit pods were removed before 10th June, the object aimed at being to remove all seed pods.

The total cost of these operations averaged Rs. 18/8 per acre; the main cost being the removal of the new fruit crop. The difficulty about this operation is not so much the cost as the provision of the necessary amount of labour which is considerable.

There can be no doubt, however, that this is the best point at which to attack the disease if it is in any way practically possible to do so. The disease is primarily a fruit disease and from the fruit spreads to the leaves, branches, and bark. This fact was particularly emphasised during the work carried out last year.

The following points were particularly observed and the following conclusions were drawn from the results of the experiments:—

(*a*) Trees carrying a particularly heavy crop of fruit exhibited a heavier leaf-fall than trees carrying a small crop of fruit.

(*b*) Trees having no fruit at all exhibited practically no leaf-fall.

(*c*) When the dead branches only were removed and the new fruit crop was left untouched, or incompletely removed, the leaf-fall was only slightly reduced.

(*d*) When the fruit crop was removed carefully and as completely as practicably possible the leaf-fall was reduced to a negligible quantity.

(*e*) In one instance a tree had been accidentally left in the treated area with its fruit crop on it. That tree was badly attacked by the disease and shed a large proportion of its foliage though the neighbouring trees from which the fruit had been removed were not attacked and retained their foliage.

The whole difficulty lies in the removal of the fruit crop. Could any method of planting or cultivation be discovered which would induce the trees to flower less, or not to set seed, our object would be attained, and suggestions and experiments bearing on this point will be welcomed.

It has been suggested with a certain amount of evidence that trees grown from basket plants or seed at stake have a better root system with a natural deep—growing tap root, while trees grown from stumps have only surface roots, and that this influences the seed bearing properties. The former do not bear much fruit and retain their foliage and escape the attack of Phytophthora. Further evidence on this point will be welcomed.

The enormous difficulty of removing the fruit is fully recognised, but in view of the success of this treatment whenever it is possible the results obtained are considered worthy of consideration.

Mr. Elton, who conducted the experiment at Pullengode Estate, has expressed the following opinion :—

> " It is of course out of the question to treat any very big acreage in " any one year on account of labour difficulties, but one can " make a beginning, say, with 100 acres as was done at Pullengode. " This area will cost less to treat the following year and so, say, " another 50 acres might be treated and so on as labour permitted, " and I most heartily agree that other work might be given " up for a work which is evidently of such extreme importance. " As an estate gets older weeding becomes vastly cheaper and " this is the very labour—women and children—which one chiefly " requires for the leaf-fall work. There are also other works " which managers could economise on in labour according to " their local conditions and necessities ; more especially I would " mention manuring. There is practicly no leaf-fall at all on my " treated experiment plot and the rest of the estate is badly at- " tacked. The results of the treatment carried out have been so " good that I should hardly like to see the work thrown over as " impracticable."

From the experience gained at Pullengode we are satisfied that the method of treatment is effective in preventing the attack of Phytophthora to such an extent as to make its effect inappreciable. We cannot say that it has completely eradicated the fungus as one tree that was accidentally missed during the treatment shed its leaves, and we do not know whether the fungus came to that tree from outside the block or was present in the tree and developed. But we can say that there was no leaf-fall during the monsoon on any of the treated trees. Mooply and Mundakayam show that half measures do not reduce leaf-fall to such an extent as to make it worth while.

We are prepared to recommend planters on infected estates to take up the method, but only on blocks of such a size that they can personally supervise the work. It is no use trying to go over a whole estate of 1000 acres in one year. The work would be done badly and no good effect produced. We do not think that any planter can possibly do more than 500 acres in any one year, and probably most men will not be able to do so much; they have neither the labour nor the time for the necessary supervision.

Estates are known where the attack of Phytophthora is at present more virulent over comparatively small areas than elsewhere on the estate, and in such cases the above method of treatment is strongly recommended.

We would like to see the treatment repeated this year on last year's experimental areas so as to make the experiment more complete and give us an opportunity of further study of the controlling factors with the experience already gained to guide us, and we trust that this will be done. The

cost of the first part of the work, the removal of dead branches, will be considerably reduced, since there will be very little dead wood present, and it is possible that with the experience gained last year in the work of removing the fruit, the cost of this part of the programme may also be reduced. In some instances it may be posible to treat an additional area from the beginning, but in the first place we should like to see the original areas thoroughly treated again. We should also welcome a trial of the method on other estates over limited areas, bearing in mind that only such areas should be chosen as can be with certainty well done and supervised. *Half measures are quite useless and merely a waste of time and money.*

A further point which we would like to have observations made upon this year is the effect of the treatment upon the prevalence of bark diseases, especially line canker, on the treated areas as compared with the untreated control areas. If possible a tree to tree census should be made of this disease. There was evidence last year to show that line canker was very markedly reduced by the treatment.

The following references to the work on Phytophthora will be found in the *Planters' Chronicle* and should be consulted.

Vol. X. p. 452. Preliminary Note by Government Mycologist.
Vol. XI. p. 629. Discussion at R. G. A. Meeting at Cochin.
Vol. XII. p. 54. Programme of Experimental work for 1917.
p. 265. Leaf-fall in Ceylon and advisory measures.
p. 487. Report of Government Mycologist on the results of 1917 work delivered at Annual Meeting U.P.A.

W. McRAE,
Government Mycologist.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

Estate Mycologists.

The class for training estate writers in elementary mycology at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, referred to in the *Planters' Chronicle*, Vol. XII-p. 570, will begin on 15th January. There were 16 applications in all, but a number of these were made after the date specified, 30th November. The class must be limited to 10 students as the Government Mycologist is unable to undertake the training of a larger number at one time and has not room for more. Consequently the Principal of the College who arranged the class accepted the first 10 applications received. These are all men from Rubber estates, in fact only rubber men applied. Some natural disappointment will no doubt be felt by those who have been left out, but it is impossible to make the class larger and those who are not admitted this year will have the first chance to join the next class to be held in 1919. The number of applications shows that there is a demand for this kind of training and the response to the suggestion made by the Deputy Director of Agriculture at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. is most gratifying.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

LOCAL BRANCH OF THE RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

A Committee Meeting was held at the Malabar Club, on the 10th January, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. S. Nicolls (Chairman), C. H. Browne, A. H. Mead, H. R. Percival, J. A. Richardson, H. M. E. Howson, J. Mackie, R. D. Anstead, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts and F. Norton, Secretary. *Visitor.*—Mr. H. Waddington.

The Chairman on opening the meeting referred to the honour lately bestowed on Sir Fairless Barber, to whom a congratulatory telegram was sent.

Telegrams from the R. G. A. Committee and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce were discussed at length and the following telegram was despatched to the R. G. A., London:—"The Committee Local Branch Rubber Growers' Association resolved, it approves of the proposed reduction of rubber output laid down by the R. G. A., London, provided Ceylon Malaya and other producing countries do likewise. Information wanted whether restriction should be made by Estates producing over 200 lbs. per acre all round or only on portions of Estates which have produced over 200 lbs. in 1917."

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, then announced that the matter of training estate writers in elementary mycology which he suggested at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. had been approved by the Government and the first class would open at Coimbatore on 15th January. 16 applications had been received, all from Rubber Estates, and as the Government Mycologist had only room and teaching equipment for 10, the Principal of the College had accepted the first, applications. A number of applications had been received after the date specified, 30th November, and these had been rejected. The six candidates left out will be taken next year and probably a regular class will be included in the College curriculum. Mr. McRae regrets that he is unable to handle a class of more than 10 but even this will add very largely to his duties.

Mr. Anstead then read the Programme of work proposed to be done in 1918 on Phytophthora meadii which causes the abnormal leaf-fall of Rubber. This was agreed to and will be published in the *Chronicle.*

Mr. Mead said I should like to supplement Mr. Anstead's remarks on Phytophthora. With regard to the Pudakad experiment, the foliage has certainly been better on the experimental area than anywhere else and the removal of seed is beyond doubt effective in combating the disease.

I personally am absolutely convinced that the trees from seed at stake planting are a markedly different type to those grown from transplanted stumps. They appear to have a well developed root system and a deep tap root and probably on this account show far less tendency towards seed production.

I was able to show Doctor Butler, the Imperial Mycologist, and Messrs. Anstead and McRae some fine examples of six year old trees grown from seed. The actual measurements of these trees are very good while the heavy foliage carried and their comparative freedom from seed and phytophthora was very marked.

This season we have opened some 260 acres in rubber planted seed at stake and I should certainly hesitate to use stumps again though it must be some years before this year's planting can prove the question by actual results.

Mr. Anstead then said that he wished to convene a Conference of all rubber planters to discuss the Rubber Mycologist scheme and work out detailed estimates and plans to submit to the R. G. A. and local Governments. The same opportunity might be taken to discuss general subjects of interest like the leaf-fall work and tapping systems.

Mr. Nicolls said he felt strongly that such a Conference should be held as an R. G. A. meeting even if non-members, who were now very few, were invited to attend as we wished to strengthen the local branch of the R. G. A. in every possible way. It was finally agreed that the Conference should be held between 1st and 10th May at Cochin, and that Mr. Anstead and Mr. J. R. Vincent, who were already in correspondence about the matter should arrange the details and submit them to the Chairman for approval.

The Secretary distributed copies of recommendations for the treatment of Latex and curing of *Sheet* Rubber, and the preparation of Plantation Rubber.

And the meeting then closed.

Madras Exhibition.

That the products of the Planting Industry of Southern India made a goodly show at the Exhibition this year, we have the assurance of the Director of Agriculture of Madras. We hoped that some more descriptive pen would by now have given us a detailed report of the Exhibits, but so far no such promised report has reached us, though nebulous rumours have that such a report is in process of incubation, if not already hatched. Through want of space, the press in Madras did not give the Planters Stall that prominence which it deserved. It is not however with the intention of writing an article on the subject that we pen these few lines, but to draw the attention of our readers to the main object of those Exhibits, attracted from the wide area of Southern India. We take it that the chief goal aimed at was to "Advertise" our wares, and to secure customers and new markets for our products. This to a certain extent has been achieved, as many requests for information have been received this year from Merchants desiring to purchase Tea and Coffee who have asked to be supplied with samples and prices, which if satisfactory would lead to further business. But unfortunately the information and samples required were not in the office, though it may be remembered that the Secretary issued early in January a Circular letter to Honorary Secretaries of District Associations asking for such to be furnished with the desired particulars. It would be advisable if those Estates which are prepared to take advantage of these enquiries would send in particulars, and the Secretary could then place the would-be purchase in communication with them. In this way the value of the Madras Exhibition as a free and wide advertisement would be accomplished. About three years ago at the Annual General Meeting it was suggested that the Columns of the *Chronicle* might be used as a medium of bringing buyer and seller together. This has been lost sight of, but if used would be a connecting link between them. It will be a thousand pities if the results of the Exhibition in the way of advertisement should be lost. It is a good beginning, which might be built up into an Extensive Exchange Mart.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

The following are odds and ends of cases which might have been included before in this series of articles. Moplahs are notoriously difficult to deal with :—

A. was a warrant against one of this Community who after a short visit to his village, went to the Kolar Gold Fields, and Bombay. The Agent to whom the work of tracing him was entrusted had to be dismissed and evidently kept the defaulter informed as to our plans. Eventually he returned to his village, but by this time a fresh warrant had to be obtained which took about 10 days. The Moplah in the meantime went to Cochin, so the new warrant had to be returned to the Court of Issue to be re-directed to the Magistrate in charge of British Cochin. The new Agent followed with the warrant only to find the man had slipped into Native Cochin where he was safe. The 2nd warrant lapsed, and the man came home. The delay in getting a 3rd warrant would have enabled him to play the same game over again, so the Labour Superintendent put in a sworn statement before the District Magistrate who issued a special warrant, and the District Superintendent of Police deputed a special man with whose help the warrantee was arrested at 2 a.m. one morning much to his chagrin and surprise. The relatives immediately paid up his debt in full with interest.

B. was a warrant against another Moplah the service of which was obstructed owing to his house being guarded by a strong posse of his co-religionists. A policeman from Coorg however had nothing to fear from their enmity, and with his assistance the scoundrel was arrested eventually, hiding under some firewood.

C. was not a Moplah. He owed a considerable sum to a subscriber. A compromise having fallen through, a warrant for his arrest was obtained, which he evaded by concealment. After some time information was obtained that he was in hiding in the home of a lady whose virtue was merely superficial. A search warrant and Police aid were immediately obtained although it was after dark, and the house surrounded. The Superintendent of the Department, his Agent and the Police then entered the house, where chillies were thrown on a brazier of charcoal, the immediate effect of which would have put a German tearshell to shame. The search was however persisted in amidst much coughing and spluttering, and the defaulter was captured in the attic well covered with grease to aid his escape. He was hauled out and removed to the lock-up in the Labour Superintendent's Car. His relations thereupon paid up the compromised amount with interest.

D. was a defaulter for over Rs. 1,000. He evaded warrants for a long time, but was finally caught. He and his joint family members executed a pro-note to pay up the debt in 3 months, to save him from the Criminal jail. If he had been sent to prison, all chance of recovering the money would have been over, as, under the personal law of the family, none of the property could have been attached. A Civil suit will have to be put through, but having got the signatures of all the members interested, there is every likelihood of getting the money back sometime.

E. was arrested but let out by the Court on his own surety to pay the amount in 2 months, to which we consented. Of course he failed, and a warrant for contempt of Court was successfully evaded for sometime. During a big festival at District Head Quarters he was spotted in the procession one night and arrested, but the warrant was 20 miles away in his own village, knowing which he raised an objection to his apprehension.

However, he was kept in play till the Superintendent of the Department got in the warrant by 8 a. m. next morning by using his Motor Car, and the defaulter got 3 months rigorous imprisonment.

F. was a case referred to the Department in 1915. All our efforts for a long time failed, as the man lived in and haunted the country at a most unget-at-able spot. The complainant almost gave up hope, and was not keen on renewing the warrant. This was however done, and two of our Agents working together with great ingenuity and determination finally laid him by the heels, effecting his arrest at midnight in a hut some 15 miles away from either of their headquarters.

I do not think any of the above cases would have been successfully dealt with by the Police without the incentive and active assistance of the Department, and especially without the personal work put in by the Superintendent, who only managed some of them because he had his Motor Car.

Every one knows that the Police get no great *Kudos* for serving Breach of Contract warrants, and cannot be expected to take the particular interest in them, which is one of our special duties.

G. was a Maistry who received Rs. 400 from a subscriber and on his way to his village he died. We knew his widow had the money. She pleaded her recent bereavement, her orphans, her poverty, and that she knew nothing about it, but offered Rs. 300 in settlement. We advised the Estate that owing to the difficult nature of the case, the amount might be accepted, but this was not agreed to, and so the matter dragged on for months. The woman then made arrangements to emigrate to Malaya, which we stopped, and at last obtaining consent from the Estate, we got the Rs. 300.

H. was a subscriber who wrote us that he had advanced 4 sawyers 6 annas each on Saturday, and that they had walked straight off. In this case the Machinery of the Department was set going over four casual strangers who received Rs. 1-8-0 between them—Oh! Mr. Thos. Hunt's poor debt collecting Agency!—on enquiry all the names and addresses proved false. Would the above Agency have persisted or gone even so far as to ascertain this fact?—I don't know, but I do know that the Labour Department eventually traced them, finding out their correct names and addresses and in three months extracted the miserable Rs. 1-8-0 from them. We have nothing to show that the subscriber considers anything out of the ordinary was done.

I. deserves all the letters of the alphabet instead of a single iota to distinguish it. All the Maistries and coolies on an Estate, after striking and rioting, bolted. We heard of it 2 days afterwards, but were given no further information to help us. The records in the Labour Department office concerned shewed however that the Head Maistry of this Estate had a wife living 16 miles away. Drawing a bow at a venture, an Agent was despatched to make enquiries there. Everybody was found, and after a palaver which lasted a week 139 out of 150 were delivered back on the Estate, and ten more headed back by another Agent in quite another district. I claim that not only do we overcome difficulties, but seek diligently for opportunities and use them with the best possible effect.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

Camp Chingleput,
14th January, 1918.

A VISITOR'S IMPRESSIONS.

By the Rev. F. F. Bull.

The St. George's Homes have now been at work for three and a half years, and although perhaps the experimental stage has not yet been passed it is very evident that they have more than justified their existence. No one who has seen them can have any doubt about the matter, and the support which the public continues to give—especially when one considers the financial circumstances of the time—shows very clearly that there is a large and increasing number of people who believe in this effort to save and utilize the child life which has been running to waste at our very doors. But this is not the first or only effort which has been made. It would be foolish and ungenerous to ignore all that has been done in the past. Up and down the country orphanages and homes have been provided by the generosity and self-sacrifice of individuals to cope with the great difficulty. It is sometimes too hastily assumed that those interested in the newer venture are not anxious to remember that others have tried, and tried nobly, to do something for that unfortunate class whose life is bounded by the Indian bazaar. This is of course untrue, and without the experience of these earlier efforts one may say that the St. George's Homes would not exist to-day. It is just because others have tried and their work is before us that the necessity for the newer method becomes apparent. The problem which faces us to-day is not new, it is indeed a very old one; but old problems often need to be attacked with new methods, and there are two points about the St. George's method which do mark these homes off from others in South India, and these points are:

1. The children have the very great physical advantage of living in a cool climate.

2. The children are under the direct supervision of Europeans, and are not subject to the influence of Orientals during their most impressionable years.

To keep children on the plains and to deny them the enormous advantage of a European influence may indeed be necessary from a financial standpoint; but if these indeed may be had, surely anyone who knows India must admit that the child who has them is more likely to be of some use to the community. Were the expense thrice as much as it is surely it would be worth it, from the social point of view, to avoid the enormous waste of British and Anglo-Indian child life that would otherwise ensue. It is easy of course to do nothing, but who is the gainer? Surely as a nation it is time we had learned the danger of drifting.

What then do the St. George's Homes profess to do? They profess to take the British and Anglo-Indian child in its earliest years—the earlier the better—and to give it a chance to become a useful member of society instead of degenerating into a waster. They aim at turning out men and women who will be producers instead of consumers only. The method by which this is accomplished is to give the children every chance of acquiring physical strength during their period of growth. They are placed in a

climate which does not enervate them and sap their vitality. They are fed so as to build them up in bone and muscle so that they may not become later a permanent source of expense to the public on account of chronic weakness and ill health. They are not herded in an institution, but live in groups of families under a 'mother' so that they may, as far as possible, learn those humble but very necessary duties which can only be learned where the personal element is felt. Most important of all, they learn in these 'homes' that manual labour so far from being a disgrace, is the normal thing for Europeans and that the disgrace lies rather in being incapable of it. This is not taught by cold theory, but by the honourable example set by the members of the staff. Of their school hours it is not necessary to say much. School is much the same everywhere in these days, but from personal observation I must say orders are carried out more quickly and work taken more seriously than would be possible, say, in the heat of Madras. What strikes the visitor most of all is the evident physical well-being of the children. Prejudices die hard and the evil properties of the sun are such a matter of faith with some that perhaps they will find it hard to believe that nearly a hundred children here go bareheaded and that no single case of sunstroke has been reported nor any ill effects observed. That they go barefoot is not so remarkable as many English children of all classes do the same with the same result, namely, freedom from colds and coughs consequent on damp shoes and stockings. It would be hard indeed to find British and Anglo-Indian children more healthy and happy. Here children are found who actually play games unprompted! The explanation is that these children are alive while their less fortunate companions on the plains are in a state of suspended animation.

'But,' says the critic, 'is it not all very costly?" That of course will depend on what one means by 'costly,' and whether it is 'cheap' to be rearing orphan and destitute children in the bazaars who will never be anything but an expense to the community so long as they drag on their miserable existence. I believe that at present each child costs about one rupee a day. Comparisons are odious but we must make them at times and here are a few for the financial critics. A human being with all the mysterious possibilities inherent to human life may be supported, clothed, fed and educated and

GIVEN A CHANCE IN LIFE

for one whole day for the cost of a drink or so. For one whole day the gift of physical and mental life may be assured for half the cost of a golf ball!! It is scarcely necessary to say more one cou'd easily think in these directions.

With regard to the future it appears to me that what is needed is that the whole problem should be carefully and quietly considered by all in a large minded spirit. It is not a question of this institution or that institution, however venerable or personally interesting. The question surely is this: 'What is really best for the children so that they may be fitted to become useful members of the Social Commonwealth?' Having found that we must from various motives—philanthropic, patriotic or whatever they may be—do our own share remembering that if the newer methods are successful it is largely owing to the patient, unselfish work of others who have had the same cause at heart in years gone by.—*Saint George.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

An Acknowledgment.

THE SECRETARY,
U. P. A. S. I.,
25, South Parade,
Bangalore.

Ootacamund,
9th January, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of 7th instant.

I shall be obliged if you will convey to the Chairman of the U.P.A.S.I., and through him to the Association, my warmest thanks for his kind congratulations and appreciation.

It is only for me to add that I hope that this honour will be looked upon as an honour conferred on my community which I am proud to serve, and I earnestly hope it may be given to me to uphold the interests of my brother planters worthily and in the manner they would wish.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) E. F. BARBER.

THE SECRETARY,
U. P. A. S. I.,
Bangalore.

Ootacamund,
11th January, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I wish to thank the Local Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association for their kind message of congratulations, which they sent me from Calicut.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) E. F. BARBER.

Prohibition of Coffee.

23, Gledhow Gardens, South Kensington,
London, S. W., 27th November, 1917.

Fletcher Norton, Esq.,
Secretary,
The United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Dear Mr. Fletcher Norton,—I regret to inform you that the Shipping Controller has now refused to permit any Coffee to be shipped to the United Kingdom even when there is vacant space owing to goods needed by Government not being ready at the Port. He explains that such space will be utilised at the next place the vessel touches at.

Every possible effort has been made by the British Empire Producers' Organisation, by the India Office, and by myself but the tonnage question is very acute, and all space on the ships is required for goods urgently needed for carrying on the War.

This is the position at present, but on ahead it may possibly improve, owing to the number of vessels being built in America and here.

There is a chance that some coffee may be shipped to Greece, Italy, and other Allied or Neutral Nations, but in that case the country importing the coffee will provide its own shipping. The India Office and Ministry of Food are trying to arrange for this, and I am told that Greece is likely to take some Indian coffee.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) BROOKE MOCKETT.

23, Gledhow Gardens, London, S. W.,
4th December, 1917.

Fletcher Norton, Esq.,
Secretary,
The United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Dear Mr. Fletcher Norton,—I have to thank you for your cablegram of 24th November as follows:—

"Current plantation coffee crop seven eight sixty five tons" which I am glad to receive.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) BROOKE MOCKETT.

Coffee Tenders.

Shevaroy Planters' Association,
Nagalur P. O., Shevaroys, 19—12—17.

The Secretary,
U. P. A. S. I., Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—With reference to an advertisement in the *Planters' Chronicle* of the 1st December, 1917, by the Officer in charge Supply Depôts, 9th Division, Bangalore, calling for tenders for the supply of 176,840 lbs. of coffee (representing about 71 tons) I beg to point out that this method of calling for tenders for a single large lot benefits the middle man and not the producer. It may also benefit the W. C. G. Co. as they or any of the curing firms would be in a position to supply so large a quantity at a time. Doubtless it would also benefit the large planter, or rather I should say the one lucky enough to get his tender accepted. In my opinion I think that every planter should get a chance and if tenders for say 5 ton lots were called for we should all have our chance and in all probability the coffee could be supplied cheaper. On behalf of my Association I therefore apply to the U. P. A. S. I. to ask if it can see its way to kindly place the matter before the Officer in charge to the extent that some of us small holders may have a chance of disposing of at least a small portion of our coming crop.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) CH. DICKINS,
Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.

No. Cont. 123.

Headquarters, 9th Division,
Supply and Transport Corps.
Bangalore, the 10th January 1918.

From The Assistant Director of Supplies & Transport,
9th (Secunderabad) Division.

To The Secretary,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 21st December last, I beg to inform you that it is too late as regards the present season to carry out the suggestion of the Honorary Secretary, Shevaroy Planters' Association of calling for tenders for smaller quantities of coffee.

2. I would however suggest that these small offers be pooled under the Honorary Secretary, Shevaroy Planters' Association who could offer and take up the contract for the whole quantity required, as contracts for only small portions of the requirements would involve considerable correspondence in this office.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) RALPH NICHOLSON, Lt.-Col.

Officer in charge Supply Depôts, 9th Dn.

Labour Department and Re-organization.

Sallebile, Kadur District,

30th December, 1917.

J. S. Nicolls Esq.,

Chairman, U.P.A.S.I.,

Devarshola P. O., Nilgiris.

Dear Sir,—I think a good deal of the dissatisfaction existing amongst Subscribers of the Labour Department might be got rid of if every District was represented on the Control Committee.

Great dissatisfaction undoubtedly does exist. I think perhaps the Control Committee might have devoted more time, in finding out what real grounds of complaint, if any, do exist. I understand the main complaints are:—

(1) The Subscription is too high.

(2) The staff is too highly paid.

(3) That the Department does little or nothing and that it costs Rs. 2 lakhs to recover Rs. 30,000.

My answers to the above are:—

(1) Accept Mr. Barber's scheme of re-organization.

(2) Efficiency is essential, if Subscribers will show the Control Committee where equally efficient men are to be found who will accept less pay and do the same work, it will be glad to employ. I am prepared to admit that in some cases the salaries paid are excessive, judged by pre-war standards, so are the salaries of some of the subscribers.

(3) The first object of the Department is, *to prevent fraud.* If the Department was absolutely efficient (also the Subscribers) there would be no losses hence no recoveries. To judge the efficiency of the Department by the amount of debts recovered is on a par with telling a man who keeps a revolver to keep off burglars, that the weapon is useless because he has no dead burglars to show.

I consider Mr. Barber's scheme of re-organization is an ideal scheme for a body of common sense practical men, under existing conditions, I should perhaps say it is Utopian.

Until comparatively recent years the operations of the U. P. A. S. I. were more or less confined to domestic matters, of late it has extended its activities into fields somewhat beyond the ken of the average Planter, in my opinion the co-operation of some business men is desirable. If the re-organization scheme is to be a success it is very necessary that the goodwill of the Coast Firms be cultivated. Apart from the value of their assistance and co-operation in business matters, they control such a large acreage, the scheme cannot succeed without their co-operation. Some Firms very naturally object to their Superintendents laying down the law in public on subjects like finance, their whole acquaintance with the subject being confined to the receipt of their monthly remittance for upkeep.

I think the time has now come when the question of giving Firms interested in Planting representation on the Council of the U. P. A. S. I. might well be considered.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) C. H. BROWNE.

Priority Claims.

No. M. 871 Office of the President, Priority Committees,
Madras,
Dated 4th January 1918.

From C. A. INNES Esq., I. C. S.
President, Priority Committees,
Madras.

To The Secretary,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Sir,—Numerous applications for assistance in obtaining priority for machinery and appliances required by tea and rubber estate in the Madras Presidency, Travancore and Cochin State are now being received by the Priority Committee, and it would save much time and correspondence if you would publish the following instructions in regard to these applications in the *Planters' Chronicle.*

2. In the first place, the Priority Committee has decided, in dealing with applications for tools and other appliancees, to adopt the scale mentioned in G. O. No. 3089, dated 2nd October 1917, which is already in use in Bengal. The scale is as follows :—

Tools.	Scales.
Digging forks including mamoties, „ hoes, Fork hoes	Combined... 175 for 500 acres.
Hand forks	... 50 „ „
Pruning knives	... 100 „ „
Axes	... 10 „ „
Sickles.	... 10 „ „
Tea chests	One chest for each 95 lbs. to 110 lbs. of a garden crop.
Tea lead	About 5 cwts for 100 chests.
Hoop iron	About 60 lbs for 100 chests.
Box nails	From 30 to 35 lbs for 100 chests.
Hooping Tacks	From 8 to 10 lbs for 100 chests.

3. To enable it to apply the scale the Committee requires the following particulars in respect of each estate.

(1) The acreage of the Garden (cultivated area only)

(2) The number of hands employed.

(3) The crop during each of the years 1915, 1916, and 1917, and

(4) The number of rolling and drying machines in tea factories.

Information as to (4) need be supplied only when machinery is applied for, but the Indian Munitions Board has informed the Committee that the other particulars should always be stated on applications for tea garden machinery or appliances, and the ruling presumably refers to coffee and rubber estates as well.

(4). In the next place, I am to say the Committee is constantly receiving applications for assistance in obtaining priority for garden tools and other appliances from firms which are in the habit of supplying estates. When these firms are agents for estates or groups of estates, the Committee does not object to these applications provided that the applications are accompanied (1) by a list of estates for which the firm is agent and (2) by a statement containing the above particulars in respect of those estates. But subject to this exception, estates which require tools or other appliances from home should send in their own applications for priority though they may do so if they so desire through the firm through which they have been accustomed to get their supplies.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. A. INNES,
President, Priority Committees,

Tea.

The following letter dated 8th January, 1918 has been addressed by the Collector of Customs, Madras, to all Tea Estates:—

I have the honour to request that you will be good enough in future to address all letters, etc., regarding Tea shipments to the United Kingdom consigned to the Food Controller to the Collector of Customs, Tea Section, Custom House, Madras.

Coffee Markets.

The Grange, Yercaud, 8—1—18.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I was extremely interested in Mr. Martin's letter suggesting a Business Manager and staff to push the sale of our coffee, and capture the markets left open to us, by Government's prohibition of imports—in my Chronicle yesterday, and I just read it through a second time and wired you my support.

At this early stage, Mr. Martin himself will probably be the first to welcome suggestions (which can be discussed and accepted or rejected later) and with this brief apology I will jot down what strikes me.

My Association last year agreed unanimously to a proposal to have a Cess for pushing our Shevaroy Coffee and we even formed a committee, but were unable to produce a workable scheme, and I understand the matter is dropped.

How would it be to have an All-India Coffee Cess? I will even go further. How would it be to ask Government to *impose* a Coffee Cess (the amount to be decided later) to enable us to take the fullest advantage of the prohibition which they (the Government) *imposed* (at our request) on outside producers?

I don't believe in "voluntary effort". The shirkers get equal benfits with most strenuous workers, and all for nothing:—

Another point—The war may last for three more years; or it *may* end tomorrow.

Hadn't we better ask Government to prohibit imports for say 3 years, so as to give us a fair chance to capture the market and *establish ourselves* in it?

Supposing we had just got started and the prohibition was removed? Where *would* we be (or rather our funds and work!)

Personally I don't care for Mr. Martin's £10 per ton, and fear that heaps of men will jib at it.

Couldn't we work it by a *small* acreage cess, and a definite percentage of the selling price? This would leave your "conscripted" man to sell locally if he chose and so "save" the selling commission (and probably *lose* 10 times the amount in reduced returns).

I am "in" as a volunteer, in any case, but I DO want to see the scheme applicable to EVERYONE, as I am convinced that ALL will benefit once the General Business Manager gets fairly under way. As Mr. Martin says *now* is our chance and to my mind it is literally "now or never" and we can do Big things if only we all "*think Big*!"

Yours faithfully,

R. W. B. GOMPERTZ.

Tea Parcels.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Received.....191 . Registered.....191 .

ABSTRACT.

Customs (War).

Communicating to the Chambers of Commerce and the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Government of India's Press Communique prohibiting the despatch of parcels of tea from India to private individuals in the United Kingdom whether by parcel post or otherwise.

G. O. Mis. No. 141 Revenue, dated 9th January 1918.

Read the following :—

From the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Press communique, dated the 22nd December, 1917.

It is notified for general information that as the Food Controller has now assumed control of all tea supplies in the United Kingdom, the despatch of parcels of tea from India to private individuals in the United Kingdom, whether by parcel post or otherwise, will no longer be permitted.

Order.

Communicated to the Chambers of Commerce and the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

(True Extract).

A. R. KNAPP,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
do Tuticorin.
do Cochin.
do Cocanada.
Godavari do Cocanada.
To the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
,, Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.
Copy to the Madras Trades Association, Madras.
do Madras Port Trust Board, Madras.
do Board of Revenne, Separate Revenue.
do Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
do Presidency Port Officer, Madras.
do Collector of Customs, Madras.
Forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of S. India.

(By Order)

T. K. G.
9-1-18.

V. PONNAIYER,
Ag. Registrar.

Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I.

Cowcoody, Somwarpet, N. Coorg,
January 11th, 1918.

To THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Sir Fairless Barber's letter, though more than short is somewhat less than fair. Of course it does not matter to him if all coffee planters have to "cut their losses and quit." What effective aid have the U. P. A. S. I., or Government given coffee planters in this crisis? "Soft words butter no parsnips." The present is no time to ask coffee to contribute even one anna an acre more to grandiose schemes. If coffee planters have any money to spare they would be better advised to help themselves by contributing to some such admirable scheme as Mr. Martin advocates. It is to be feared however that many have already sold in advance at such prices as the wily agent, disguised as an Arab, has been pleased to give. Between the Scylla of Prohibition and the Charybdis of indifferent seasons, while the syren in the shape of,—or rather, while the two daughters of the horse leech, Science and Labour, cry continually "Give, Give," what wonder if the poor man says "A plague of both your houses"?

If constructive criticism is called for I venture, with all diffidence, to suggest that any change made should be in the direction of greater freedom instead of an artificial uniformity. In addition to the small subscription for general purposes, let there be cesses for special objects, such as science, labour, pushing coffee, pushing tea &c. with separate accounts and if necessary, paid secretaries or clerks, the whole loosely controlled and co-ordinated by the U. P. A. S. I. Every individual could subscribe to what he needs most, and it would still be open to any local association to decree that its members must subscribe to any particular cess.

Probably one main reason for the proposed amalgamation of everything is that the public-spirted men who already devote so much of their time free for planting interests cannot indefinitely increase their work. This should solve that difficulty and also satisfy the great majority including coffee planters, who are apt to be the "under dog" under their more pushing brethren.

Yours faithfully,
L. NEWCOME.

Tea.

Copy of telegram dated the 11th January, 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Block B, 3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"28 Tea loading South Indian ports are conveyed from shore to steamer by barges and incur craft and sling risks. Am advised that these risks are ordinarily included in Marine Insurance for voyage. Will you accept these risks, as if not, shippers must insure against them. Claims have been made on me for chests damaged or lost in course of shipment per Cheviot Range, and am passing bills subject to subsequent claims if necessary."

"TEA COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA."

Memo No. 3142-54 T. C. dated the 11th January, 1918.
Copy forwarded to Secretary United Planters' Association,

J. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

"Re-organise the Labour Idea."

THE EDITOR, Yercaud, 14—1—18.
Planters' Chronicle.
Bangalore.

Sir,—Permit me to ask one old,—but none the less ***very pertinent*** question (and one rider question),

Would not the abolition of advances remove the ***raison d'etre*** of the Labour Department as at present constituted ?

(Rider) If so :—

Would this not be the cheapest and best solution for this particular part of the problem of the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. ?

It will HAVE to come to "Abolition of Advances" sooner or later, and if the Straits can do it, why can't WE, and then having done it, ask Government to prohibit Ceylon giving any advances (either directly or indirectly) to S. Indian labour.

This subject is dwarfing far more important matters that *also* need re-organising.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. B. GOMPERTZ,

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We regret that on account of stress of matter, correspondence that has reached us, has to be held over to next week's issue.

A very interesting article on the Kerala Manurial Experiments with Hevea Rubber is contributed by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, who wishes us to call special attention to his remarks under the heading of Analytical Department.

We publish the Proceedings of the Third Quarterly Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association. We would call attention to Mr. Lake's remarks in the last para of his speech on the Re-organisation of the Labour Department.

We also publish the Proceedings of the Committee Meeting of the Advisory Committee, held in Madras, on the 14th and 15th January.

As regards the letter to the South Mysore Planters' Association from the Government of India, Mr. Lake sent a telegram to the Revenue Secretary as follows:

"D. O. Resident Mysore has shown me India's letter dated 10th to Secretary, South Mysore Planters' Association with reference to last sentence, please offer me such advice as you can, regarding presentation of our scheme. Will Government letter debar you from submitting."

The Revenue Secretary replied as follows:—

"Your telegram. Since interviewing you I saw India's letter referred to but do not consider it debars us from putting your scheme forward."

We publish the Scheme for Relief by Government for the Coffee Industry of South India which has been presented to the Government of Madras with a request to forward it, and we trust with their strong support to the Government of India, who, we hope, will take it into their immediate consideration, and afford that financial assistance so urgently needed.

We publish another instalment of the Labour Department, who we trust will continue their articles and thus keep the good work they are doing in the eye of the Planting Community.

We publish certain amendments on Priority which appeared in the *Planters' Chronicle* of October 13th, 1917.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Kerala Manurial Experiments with Hevea Rubber.

These experiments have now been conducted over a complete period of three years, and figures enough have been obtained to enable us to make a survey of the results. These results have been somewhat vitiated by two factors which were unavoidable, *viz*:

(*a*) that in June 1917 thinning out operations had to be undertaken on the experiment blocks.

(*b*) that potassic fertilisers were unobtainable in 1917 and the manurial system had to be modified in consequence.

The last factor is no doubt the most serious, and in how far it has affected the results, it is impossible to say. They are published, however, in the hope that they may be of general interest to planters. The fact of thinning out makes it impossible to continue the analysis made in the last report on the lines then adopted. (See *Planters' Chronicle* Vol. XI. pp. 132, 144.) Consequently, they have been analysed in a new way, dividing the figures into three periods of a complete annual cycle of tapping from July to June, and in order to get a comparison between the yields of the different plots which will allow for the reduction in the number of trees in each in 1917, the average yield per tree on each plot has been calculated for each period.

The most striking feature of the whole experiment is the fact of the high yield and increasing yield of the unmanured plots. This is in accordance with the results obtained in Ceylon where the same disappointing phenomenon occurs.

As pointed out in the last report on these experiments, surprise is not altogether felt at this result, as I have never expected the application of manure to actually increase the supply of latex and therefore of direct yield. What one would expect to happen is that the steady application of manures would increase the girth of the trees and therefore the yield in future years indirectly, since there would be more bark to tap on. A census of the girth of the trees on the different plots does not, however even, show this result very plainly, as will be seen when this aspect of the experiment is discussed.

Meanwhile it is desirable to note here Mr. C. H. Browne's opinion, *viz*., that "when trees are so closely planted that their branches interlace and the sun only strikes their heads, they will not put on girth with manure; if the manure is going to affect their growth at all it is more likely to cause them to run up towards the light than girth. Cutting out trees and letting in light and sun will of itself make the trees add girth." The results of these experiments certainly tend to confirm this opinion and are all in favour of wider planting and early thinning out in order to get the full benefit of manures, or indeed any noticeable benefit at all. What is now needed is an experiment in spacing pure and simple and then an experiment with manures carried out on some plots which have been so thinned out from the start that the sun gets in all round them. The trees would probably not be so tall, but they would be properly proportioned with thick stems.

Kerala Estate Rubber Manurial Experiments.

Plot.	Manurial Treatment.	July 1914 to June 1915.				July 1915 to June 1916.				July 1916 to June 1917.			
		No. of times tapped.	Total yield Dry Rubber in lbs.	Average yield per tree in lbs.	Order of Merit.	No. of times tapped.	Total yield Dry Rubber in lbs.	Average yield per tree in lbs.	Order of Merit.	No. of times tapped.	Total yield Dry Rubber in lbs.	Average yield per tree in lbs.	Order of Merit.
1	Sulphate of Potash.			225 trees.				225 trees.					
	1 lb. per tree ...	279	381·89	1·69	7	275	473·99	2·10	5	299	496·58	2·71	10
2	Muriate of Potash.												
	1 lb. per tree ...	279	373·63	1·66	8	275	455 91	2·02	6	299	527·94	3·14	5
3	Kainit.												
	4 lbs. per tree ...	279	425·71	1·89	3	275	493·29	2·19	2	299	518·24	3·27	3
4	3 Basic Slag.												
	1 Sulphate Potash.												
	4 lbs. per tree ...	278	428·16	1·90	2	275	491·01	2·19		299	490·02	3·14	4
5	3 Basic Slag.												
	1 Muriate Potash.												
	4 lbs. per tree ...	279	451·50	2·00	1	275	481·93	2·14	4	299	484·78	2·88	8
6	1 Basic Slag.												
	1 Kainit.												
	8 lbs. per tree ...	279	393·00	1·74	5	275	443·44	1·97	7	299	492·28	2·82	9
7	5 Basic Slag.												
	3 Sulphate Potash.												
	4 Nitrolim.												
	4 lbs. per tree ...	280	415·47	1·84	4	275	427·57	1·90	8	299	495·07	3·09	6
8	No Manure ...	280	390·71	1·73	6	275	487·69	2·16	3	299	539·18	3·52	2
9	Basic Slag.												
	1 lb. per tree ...	...	...	...	...	275	487·33	2·16		299	529·55	3·04	7
	Applied June 1915.												
10	No Manure ...	...	...	...	...	275	508·14	2·25	1	299	538·87	3·69	1

If now we examine the results, taking them as they stand, it appears that Potash alone applied in the form of Sulphate or Muriate produces little result, plots 1 and 2 have remained persistently low in the order of merit from the beginning. Potash alone in the form of Kainit, however, has produced consistently good results, the plot, No. 3, was 3rd in order of merit in the first year and rose to 2nd in the following year, while in the last period it fell to 3rd again. Two things are to be noted about this result, first that if the new non-manured plot No. 10 is left out and No. 3 ts compared with No. 8 throughout the period of experiment it remains 2nd throughout the period and is the only plot which has consistently retained its high position. Secondly that in the 3rd period of the experiment it did not receive its dose of Kainit as it should have done but this had to be replaced by a dressing of Lime.

The only other plot which can compare with No· 3 in this way is No. 4 which received a mixture of Basic Slag and *Sulphate* of Potash throughout the whole period including 1917. This plot has maintained its position throughout and there is little to choose between it and No. 3. It is a most curious thing that while Kainit alone gives such a good result, Sulphate of Potash a poor one, and Basic Slag alone a very fair one (Plot 9) that Slag and Kainit is not a good mixture and give poor results (Plot 6) but Slag and Sulphate gives a good result. I am quite unable to explain this, but I think that we can definitely say as a result of the three years trial that on Kerala soil and under Kerala climatic conditions the only manures which give any really definite result are Kainit and a mixture of Basic Slag and Sulphate of Potash.

Slag and Muriate of Potash which produced the best result at first has gradually fallen off and though this plot received the mixture again in 1917 it fell to almost the last place. (Plot No. 5.)

A complete manure consisting of Sulphate of Potash, Slag, and Nitrolim produced consistently poor results. (Plot No. 7.)

We have two unmanured plots with which to compare the results No. 8 and No. 10 and the yield of these two differ a good deal. No. 10 leads the way from the time it was laid down as the best plot and No. 8 has risen from 6th to 2nd place and these two give better results than any others.

It is of interest to note that Mr. Kelway Bamber commenting upon the manurial experiments carried out in Ceylon since 1913 (Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of Agricultural Experiment, Ceylon, 8th March 1917), pointed out that the yield of the control unmanured plot was still equal to the highest of the manured plots. The Ceylon Experiments gave quite different results to those obtained on Kerala. There Phosphoric acid produces the best result and Potash the worst. Nitrogen gave a large increase after the first application but fell off heavily after the second. The advice given in Ceylon as regards manuring Rubber is to bury leaves in shallow pits 8 ft. by 6 ft. and 9 ins. deep between the trees with Slag and other Phosphatic manures.

There is no doubt that Hevea Rubber is a most difficult crop to experiment with. As pointed out by the Chairman of the Ceylon Committee the individuality of the trees is a most important factor and a disturbing factor as it was found that one rubber tree in every ten gave outstanding results and this must be taken into consideration when Experiments with Rubber yields are examined. The experimental error in all such experiments must be huge and I am therefore induced to judge all results from the girth of the trees so as to reduce this error as far as possible.

If now we turn to this question of girth we have the following figures for the essential plots :—

Plot.	Average girth at three feet from the ground.		Increase.	Girth at ground level September 1917
	January 1918.	September 1917		
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
3	26	33¾	7¾	41½
4	26	33½	7½	42
5	28	32	4	40½
8	25	32½	7½	40¾
9	26	32¼	6¼	41¾
10	25	32	7	41

All that can be said about these figures is that plots 3 and 4 hold their own as they do in the matter of yield while plot 5 has not increased in girth and has also given a poor yield. But the difference in increase of girth between manured and unmanured plots is decidedly disappointing and the results tend to show that thinning out is quite possibly a controlling factor. The biggest all round trees are those in Plot 4.

As bearing on the whole question of manuring Rubber I would call special attention to an article on the subject published in the *Indian Rubber Journal LIII, No. 8 of 24th February 1917* and reproduced in the *Planters' Chronicle* XII-17-p. 217.

Analytical Department.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, will be much obliged if planters who send samples of fertilisers for analysis, will in future always take care to let him know at the time such samples are sent, the following particulars :—The price of the fertiliser per ton, from what source it is obtained, *its composition and the guarantee under which it is sold.*

Recently some mistakes have unfortunately been made and this information is required to allow Mr. Anstead to have a ready means at hand for checking analyses made by the Assistant Chemist and exercising some control and supervision over his work.

Rubber Tapping.

In view of the fact that the output of Rubber from many estates is to be reduced during the coming season it may be well to remember that there are several ways in which this can be done. One method which deserves consideration is a system of tapping once every three days instead of daily or on alternate days. This will reduce the yield slightly and at the same time yield more rubber per unit of bark expended and reduce the tapping gang.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the 3rd quarterly Meeting held at the Travellers' Bungalow, Saklaspur, on 20th December, 1917.

PRESENT.—Messrs. C. Lake, (President), C. J. Hayward, (Vice-President), S. J. Hunt, (Hon. Secretary), F. M. Hamilton, J. G. H. Crawford, E. W. Rutherford, W. F. Scholfield, W. Galiffe, M. J. Woodbridge, Thiselton Anderson.

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 7th October were confirmed.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE DASSERA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY AT MYSORE.

Gentlemen,—You asked me to bring up three subjects at the Dusserah or rather at interviews with officials.

1. Title Deeds.
2. Roads.
3. Medical officer in Saklaspur.

The latter I did not touch on as no particulars of particular case were forwarded to me.

As regards the other two points I saw the Dewan privately and arranged a meeting. Mr. Godfrey and I attended and presented our case as follows.

There were present the Dewan, the Acting Revenue Secretary Mr. Sreenivasa Iyengar and Mr. Ramaswami Iyer whose exact position in Government I don't know.

In conversation we used all arguments we could think of and the only reply we could get out of the Dewan was that the Council would consider the question anew, he said he saw no objection to making terms of payments in case of back assessment early.

He said the survey department would be written to, to hurry up resurvey.

As regards roads he said he would try to get things better done in future. You may have heard that road boards have been instituted.

LAND TENURE AND TITLE DEEDS IN MYSORE.—Government Order No. R. 4693-703/L. R. 330-11-4 dated Bangalore, 18th November, 1916.

PARA 4. PERMANENT TENURE.—1. The planters of Mysore would represent the great hardship of Government Order refusing to give lands on permanent tenure.

2. Suggest that the concession should be continued to those who were in the country and had already taken up land under the original terms of 1881, with the impression that such would be continued.

TITLE DEEDS.—We request that strict instructions may be issued to the Officers responsible for issue of Title Deeds to expedite issue of same.

In order to enable same to be complete, *the Resurvey* of all permanent settlement lands and all lands the owners of which desire to have same put on permanent tenure, should be given *priority*.

We suggest that the work should be put in hand at once.

30 YEAR TENURE LANDS WHICH ARE NOW DESIRED ON PERMANENT TENURE.—1. We would suggest that in the case of owners wishing to pay up such assessment the terms might be made easy as financial difficulties are very great owing to the war.

2. In the case of other owners who could not pay up a large sum the concession might be made to them of paying an enhanced assessment for a period of 30 years when the land would automatically come on Permanent Tenure.

3. We would suggest, that the back assessment on lands now wanted on permanent tenure, by payment at once, should be only collected from the year the land was taken up from Government.

ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.—Last year at the time of the Dusserah or Representative Assembly we brought to the attention of the Chief Engineer the following roads which were in very bad order.

1. Mudigere Sub-Division Belur Mudigere road via Chickanhalli, Miles 2/40-5/50. (Ghat Section 2/40-43).

2. Belur Sub-Division same road.
Miles 36-39.

3. Saklaspur Sub-Division Ammahal Mudigere Road:—Whaddenhulla Bridge to Ammahal turn.

4. Hassan-Bangalore road via Chanarayapatna and Kunigal, a Bridge required between miles 67-68.

Assurance was given that these matters would be looked into.

The Chief Engineer's letter replying to above Representations dated 17th April last says :—

" that special estimates have been sanctioned and the annual grants "
" increased to improve the roads and maintain them in good "
" condition and the works are being carried out briskly."

With reference to the above the Assistant Engineer Mudigere Sub-Division writes on 18th May, 1917.

" The special estimates referred to in the above letter is the one "
" that is working on the road at present and for which you have got "
" collection at the Ghat. Beyond this I have not received any further "
" intimation regarding the road work."

The section referred to by the Assistant Engineer is the Ghat one 2/40-43 Belur Mudigere Road for which a special grant was made 4 years ago, only this year has metal been collected.

From the above it will be seen that no new work has been undertaken and that with the exception of the small section miles 2/40-43 Ghat road, our representations last year do not seem to have had any effect.

We would represent that it is all important that sanction should be given to special estimates for the above at once, to enable work to be carried out this year. Owing to difficulties of finance etc. most labour will be dispensed with in February next.

The section miles 36-39 on above road in Belur Sub-Division is in a deplorable condition and is urgently in need of repairs and extra grants for upkeep. Saklaspur Sub-Division Waddenhulla Bridge to Amamahal Turn is in a very bad state.

Hassan—Bangalore road *via* Chennarayapatna & Kunigal stream across road between 67 and 68 miles. I understand a survey of it has been made and hope before long the work of making a bridge or culvert may be started.

We would also like to bring to the notice of the Government the very bad state of Chickmagalur-Kadur Road.

In connection with upkeep of roads generally we would like to point out that wages of labour have much increased, since upkeep rates were settled and think the time has come for a general revision.

KADUR DISTRICT.

ROADS.—Referring to the intimation given at the interview with the Dewan to the Mysore European Planters' Delegates in Bangalore on 25th August, 1917.

" That the Government recognised that certain roads in Kadur "
" District required special work to bring them to a proper "
" standard as communications, and that a special officer would "
" be deputed to settle the extent and locality of such works "
" and a special grant accorded to carry out the same."

Will the Government also arrange for special supervision in the carrying out of the said works, so that both State and Public may benefit by a full return for the outlay.

REPORT OF DEPUTATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS AT MANGALORE.—Mr. Hayward read the report as follows:

At your request Mr. Woodbridge and myself went down to Mangalore. After being introduced to His Excellency, the Conference was opened by Mr. Vibert, the Collector of Mangalore, who very clearly explained the advantages of the Hassan-Mangalore Railway project as regards Mangalore and the surrounding country. I then said a few words to point out the advantages to Mysore, and then several Indian Gentlemen spoke, after which the matter was fully discussed. His Excellency gave us a very sympathetic hearing and I think clearly saw the many advantages this project has over the Bhatkal scheme except as an open Port, but even this disadvantage was shown not to be insurmountable, it was recognized by all that nothing further could be done until the War is over.

RE-ORGANISATION OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

This matter was thoroughly threshed out and Mr. Lake spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen.—As my name is mentioned in the circular now before you I should like to say a few words on this subject.

I confess that when I read the circular I was disappointed as I had hoped that in it we were going to be told of a scheme for re-organisation of the Labour Department and that we should perhaps be given the information we asked for at our meeting the minutes of which were in the P. C. of November 10th.

In his letter to the Chairman The Hon'ble Mr. Barber says "Naturally the heaviest expenditure must be incurred where the competition with outside recruiters is keenest." This is true, but we find that last year the heaviest expenditure was incurred in *Bangalore* and not in any *recruiting* District.

I think we should all support The Hon'ble Mr. Barber's suggestions for amalgamation of the several branches of the U. P. A. S. I., but at the same time I feel sure that such support will be more readily given by those who are at present non-subscribers to the Labour Department if they see it put its house in order first.

So far as reduction in subscription is concerned our needs have been met, but this reduction can only take place if the whole area subscribing to the U. P. A. S. I. supports the scheme.

I hope, therefore, that all members of this Association will give this scheme their support, as if it goes through it is bound to lead to greater efficiency in the working of both the U.P.A.S.I., and the Labour Department.

To those of us who are already subscribers to the Labour Department it will mean a saving of some 14 annas per acre.

To those few who are not yet subscribers because they feel they have no use for the Labour Department I would say, give it a trial and I do not think you will find it of no use to you at all and further by doing so you will be materially helping your brother Planters by combining with them, you will increase the usefulness of the Department by increasing the subscribing area, and this by making a very small sacrifice, if any, without which the scheme cannot be successful.

I would remind you that there were many of us who joined the Labour Department originally not because we had much use for it at the time but because we were out to help those who were in need of it. I myself was one of them and I admit I have since found the Department very useful in more ways than one.

I would further remind you that the inception of the U. P. A. S. I. was largely due to members of this Association, that the Scientific Department was the outcome of the efforts of this Association to establish some form of Scientific help for its members and that the idea of a Labour Department was strongly advocated by the late Mr. J. A. Harris a member of this Association several years before it came into being.

These are now all established and we are asked to help in placing them on a firmer and sounder footing.

Surely we should give that help.

Mr. Hayward also said :—

RE-ORGANISATION OF U. P. A. S. I.

Gentlemen,—Mr. Lake has clearly put before you the object of the Re-organisation of the Labour Department which when completed practically means the completion of the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

I have written down various suggestions as regards the latter but they can be of no use until the vital question of the future of the Labour Department is settled and therefore I will not plague you or anybody else with them until something more definite is known on this point.

Some months have passed since the scheme of Re-organisation was suggested and I think all subscribers to the U. P. A. S. I. must by now be acquainted with a rough idea of the scheme and the matter to my mind now wants speeding up, letters to the P. C. or discussions on the matter at various meetings of Associations affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. will not as far as I can see bring any tangible result as it is necessary to know every individual's decision on the matter and I would therefore take the liberty of suggesting to the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. that a form be sent round as early as possible to every subscriber to the U. P. A. S. I. and Labour Department asking them to state the acreage they are prepared to subscribe on under the new rate. A few days ago I sent a letter to the *Planters' Chronicle* asking if some one would state the position of the following cases.

i. The lucky man who has no Labour troubles and would prefer only to subscribe to his Local Association and still retain his voting power as regards the U. P. A. S. I.

ii. The man who is not in a position to subscribe the full rate but still wishes to continue his interest in his Local Association and U. P. A. S. I.

iii. The man who at present subscribes to the Labour Department but who is not a member of his Local Association or U. P. A. S. I.

Unfortunately I did not keep a copy of my letter but I think the above reads about the same.

I think that I can anticipate the answer as I can only see one solution and that is that all subscribers and I might add those who are at present non-subscribers are asked to put the U. P. A. S. I. in the strong position it should be by buying past grievances and putting their acreages on and thereby m[illegible] Associ[illegible] intended to be, but is not [illegible] South Indi[illegible] I re[illegible] I

can see no possibility of helping the man who cannot afford to subscribe the full rate as if various rates are allowed, the new scheme could but be a fiasco.

In regard to the above the following resolution was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION.—The members of this Association are prepared to give their support to the proposed Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I. on condition that the Labour Department be thoroughly re-organised somewhat on the lines suggested by the S. M. P. A. delegates at the last U. P. A. Meeting, *i.e.* That the local Agencies be made more efficient and less money spent at head-quarters.

ACT XIII OF 1859.—The judgment in the Kerala case was read. It was suggested that it might meet the case if in future agreements with Maistries it was specified that the Maistry prunes, digs and does other necessary Estate works with his coolies.

RESOLUTION 19A OF THE U. P. A. CONFERENCE.— It was resolved that this Association do give their support to the Resolution 19A passed at the last Annual meeting of the U.P.A.S.I. Mr. Hayward on this subject said—

INCREASED STAFF.

Gentlemen,—I am not sure where this increase is desired but it has often struck me that the Chairman and Planting Member must be put to considerable expense during their term of office, of course those who climb to such high positions must expect to have to dip their hands into their pockets but I certainly think an allowance should be made to cover cost of engaging extra clerks etc.

COFFEE POSITION.—The Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I's letters were read in regard to all that had been done in this matter, and developments are awaited.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Lake and Mahon who have attended a meeting at Tellicherry in regard to Government purchase of coffee, the scheme has been sent up to the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., and it is hoped that the outcome of it will be relief to the Coffee Industry.

MADRAS EXHIBITION.—500 lbs. of coffee were sent to the exhibition. The Meeting agreed to re-imburse Mr. K. Kamaiya whose coffee it was, his out-of-pocket charges.

Subjects to be brought up at Hassan District Conference to be held in Hassan on 7th and 8th January 1918.

Mr. E. W. Rutherford was deputed to attend this and was instructed thereon.

Read letter from Mr. Rose, Manager of the Bank of Mysore re financing planters, intimating, that not until the Government of Madras came to a decision in the matter, was it possible for the Government of Mysore to take the initiative and suggested asking the Planting Member to press the Government of Madras for an early decision.

Various other correspondence was read and recorded.

The Mysore Chamber of Commerce circulars were laid on the table.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

Messrs, G. Ahmed Pasha and B. Krishna Singh were proposed by Mr. Hayward and seconded by Mr. King and elected.

A proposal will be brought forward at the next meeting with a view to altering the rules as regards membership.

C. LAKE, *President.*
ST. JOHN HUNT, *Hon. Secretary*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee held at the Custom House, Madras, on January 14th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., Tea Commissioner, Sir E. F. Barber, Mr. J. S. Nicolls, Mr. H. L. Pinches, Mr. J. Mackie, Mr. J. A. Richardson, Mr. D. McArthur, Mr. P. Eccles and Mr. H. L. Griggs.

The Tea Commissioner explained in detail the notification and forms of tender which he proposes to issue calling for tenders for South Indian Tea, and the following points were discussed.

1. Tenders will only be called for in India from Estates controlled in India. In cases in which it is doubtful whether an Estate is controlled in India or at home the persons interested at home should refer to the Food Controller and get the point settled as to whether he regards it as controlled at home or in India.

2. The amount of crop to be called for. It was decided that in order that Estates might know at once how much they might tender for and in order to provide for young estates coming into bearing estates should be told that they may tender either an amount equal to 40% of their 1917 crop or 33% of their estimated 1918 crop, it being estimated that the aggregate amount taken will approximately equal 33% of the 1918 crop. The estimates for 1918 on which tenders are based must be passed by the Advisory Committee.

3. The question whether the shipper should insure chests between shore and ship was raised. The Tea Commissioner informed the Committee that he had referred the matter to the Food Controller but that as the Contract was F. O. B. it appears to him that the Food Controller would not undertake any liability and that they should insure for the present.

4. As teas are to be examined in India and deductions made when the quality is considered to be below the normal standard of the estate the question was raised as to whether any appeal lay from the expert's valuation. The Tea Commissioner pointed out that if an estate objected to a valuation the particular consignment of tea concerned could be withdrawn or an appeal made to the Tea Commissioner in Calcutta who would consult the Calcutta Experts.

5. After discussion the Tea Commissioner agreed to adopt the same deduction of '08 of an anna per lb. as in Calcutta as the nett deduction to be made from Colombo sale prices representing the difference between Colombo sale charges etc. which have to be deducted and the shipping charges which have to be added.

6. Where an Estate has not sold in the Calcutta, Colombo or London markets samples of the Estate's tea will be sent to the Tea Expert who will forward them with his opinion to the Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee will recommend what price is to be paid for such teas.

7. In invoices of cost, the Tea Commissioner informed the Committee that he would accept a charge of 1/16th per cent. as brokerage charges, when such charges are made. No charge for brokerage at a higher rate would be admitted. As regards the cost of drawing bills of exchange, where the shipping agent has not previously done this work for the garden, the Tea Commissioner will enquire what the charges are in Calcutta, but would not in any case pass a bill in excess of 1/16th per cent.

8. When an estate is called upon to produce tea for shipment at a named date the Food Controller is responsible for warehouse charges if the tea is not shipped within one month of the date specified. It is clear from communications received from the Food Controller that he will not undertake the insurance of such teas after the expiry of the one month specified but it is not quite clear whether the producer should insure or not, *i.e.*, whether the Food Controller would pay for it if burnt. Tea Commissioner will refer this, but thought they should insure in such cases.

9. When tea has been sold partly at auction and partly by local sale, the price to be paid will be based on the auction prices. The price realised by local sale however may be mentioned in making the tender.

10. It was decided that 4 members of the Advisory Committee should form a quorum.

11. The Advisory Committee will scrutinise the tenders when sent in.

TUESDAY THE 15TH JANUARY, 1918.

Present the same as on previous day except the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber.

1. The Tea Commissioner discussed the matter of financing Tea Bills and suggested that the members of the Committee should consult the Banks as to whether they preferred a broker to be employed or that the Bills should be sent to them direct.

2, The form of Invoices and Bill of cost was discussed and a copy of a form which was considered suitable will be printed and circulated.

3. The arrangements for the drawing and testing of samples to be sent to the Tea Expert at Madras, were considered. It was decided that when sending tea to the coast Estates should send one copy of the invoice to Mr. Griggs, and that samples should be drawn at the rate of 1 for each break of 10 chests or under, and 2 for each break of more than 10. When the tea has been tested, the invoice covering it will be sent to the shipping agent who will send it with the invoice of cost etc, to Madras after the tea has been shipped.

4. The Tea Commissioner informed the Committee that no special marking of chests was required. They should be marked in the usual way.

SHIPMENT AND PURCHASE OF INDIAN COFFEE.

The following letter has been received from the Government of India by the South Mysore Planters' Association in reply to their telegram:

"With reference to your telegram of the 9th November 1917 to the address of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the situation created by the want of facilities for shipment of Indian Coffee, I am directed to say that this matter has been and is still under the constant attention of both His Majesty's Secretary of State for India and the Government of India and no opportunity has been lost to endeavour to obtain concessions that might relieve the situation. The tonnage position is, however, so serious and the demands for the carriage of war commodities so considerable that the Shipping Controller has had to refuse facilities for the carriage of coffee and other unessential commodities on controlled liners. I am to add that the question of purchasing the unshipped balance of the coffee crop has also been carefully considered, but the Government of India regret that they cannot see their way to do this.'

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

New connections.—A. was a man who was a debtor to a subscribing Estate and became a lunatic. His son offered to pay the debt provided he was given work. This was arranged and a new connection was supplied to another Estate by the son. So far this has proved satisfactory and two subscribers have been benefited.

B. was an Estate that required Tamil connections. A maistry with 25 coolies was recommended and employed, he was sent down for more coolies and raised his gang to 143.

C. was supplied with a maistry and 15 coolies. The Estate wanted more. The Department recommended that the Estate should send the maistry down to try and recruit them. Instead of this, the brother-in law was sent, and made a hash of things and the connection proved a failure.

D. was an Estate to which 3 new maistries were introduced, they failed to supply labour, but two of them are working off their advance with their own families, consisting of 5 members, on the Estate.

E. was a large Tea Estate to which altogether 9 maistries were introduced, they supplied 162 coolies between them but 2 subsequently proved unsatisfactory and the others lost some of their coolies. The balance worked off their debts, but refused to work for a second term.

F. was badly in want of labour. A maistry with 15 coolies was sent Another connection of 30 coolies without advance went to the estate, but did not remain owing to the interference of other maistries.

G. A maistry and 30 coolies was supplied to another Estate and as othing more has been heard from there, we presume it is all right.

H. A maistry and 16 coolies were sent to another Estate, and the same remarks apply.

I. Sent a maistry to the Department, asking for help to increase the mans' gang. 25 new coolies went back to the Estate with the maistry.

J. Wished to supplement his labour force and sent us 2 maistries. They got 26 coolies between them with our assistance, and we have heard no more from the Estate.

K. The Superintendent of a Rubber Estate applied personally for a new connection. A supplier was introduced, who after a visit of inspection to the Estate, returned and placed 250 coolies on the Estate. About 2 months afterwards they became dissatisfied and gave trouble. The Labour Superintendent went to the Estate and arranged a settlement of their grievances, and the coolies have settled down and are working well.

L. The same Estate arranged for a connection through another Labour supplier and handed over the arrangements to the Department. The man and

his coolies arrived on the Estate, and at first they seemed satisfied, but the supplier has since left the Estate leaving the coolies in charge of his brother. They are still working there.

M. Another Rubber Estate for which 50 coolies were procured and are giving satisfaction.

N. A labour connection was wanted for a young tea Estate. A maistry was procured who contracted for 50 coolies, but only supplied 30, of whom 18 absconded. The maistry and 12 coolies are still working.

O. Proved to be a bad egg. Another young tea Estate applied for 150 coolies. A maistry was found who took advance for 50, but only supplied 43. After 2 months work the whole lot bolted.

P. An Estate applied for a small new connection, a maistry was found who took up the coolies he contracted for, and they are presumably working satisfactorily, as nothing further has been heard from the Estate.

Q. A Rubber Estate to which no one was found willing to go as it was too out of the way.

R. A coffee Estate wanted labour, after some delay two men agreed to go and have a look at the place but we then heard from the Estate that labour was sufficient.

S. Two other coffee Estates wanted Mysore Labour, and maistries were sent to look at the places, but found all the coolies were coast people, so they refused to take their coolies there They went on to other places where Mysore coolies were employed and took up work there.

The Department still finds it extremely difficult to get new connections for Estate work. None of the above were from entirely new districts, but from places whence coolies were accustomed to go to work on estates. Although new to Estate work themselves, they were cognizant of the fact that others from the same localities had gone to work on the same or neighbouring places. Some old connections seem to be completely hidebound, and incapable of increasing but it is easier as a matter of fact, for an old maistry, provided he is honest and seeks the aid of the Department, to supplement his labour force though it may only be by a little, than to induce a complete stranger to embark on the precarious enterprize of recruiting new coolies and taking them to work on Estates. It is hardly considered a suitable occupation for a man of respectability and any substance. The danger of falling into the clutches of the criminal law, and of having to resort to it, is ever present.

It is only wise for such people to seek other outlets for their energies. if they have any. Any number of blackguards are ready to take advance of course, and to take the exciting risks involved, but *cuibono?*

AYLMER Fr. MARTIN,
Director.

COFFEE.

Scheme for Relief by Government for the Coffee Industry in S. India.

In submitting to Government for their consideration the following further details in elaboration of the resolution passed at the United Planters' Association of Southern India Conference in August last reading :—

"That the Government of India be approached with a view to their purchasing the stocks of coffee now remaining in the country if tonnage is not available." We have endeavoured to give expression to the measures which, in our opinion, it will be necessary to carry out to bring immediate relief to the Coffee Industry and to those dependent upon it.

In doing so we have sought the assistance and valuable advice of many of the coffee curing agents without whose co-operation we believe no scheme can be made practicable.

In putting forward these proposals we have borne in mind the fact that it is only after Planters have made every effort to dispose of their coffee themselves they should finally ask Government to help them out of their difficulties by coming to their assistance and in asking them to do so we have endeavoured as far as possible to safeguard them against any pecuniary loss.

We, therefore, submit the following proposals to enable Government to put into effect the above resolution :—

(1). That this scheme be introduced by Government for the purpose of giving financial aid to the Coffee Industry during the present crisis and that it be in force until six months after the termination of the War or until such time as unrestricted tonnage is available for coffee. In the event of it being necessary to continue the operation of this scheme beyond the present season the conditions suggested for the working of it shall be recurrent.

(2). That Government do publish at once their intention of purchasing the stocks of coffee remaining unsold on April 15th, 1918, at the following prices :—

Plantation coffee at Rs. 43 10 0 per cwt.
Native Coffee „ 40 0 0 „

delivery to be made packed in double bags f.o.b. or f.o.r. as may be required. That payment for the stocks so purchased by Government shall be made at a date fixed by Government; subject to monthly advances being given to those planters requiring them for the upkeep of their Estates, from the date of Government taking over the stocks.

It is absolutely essential for the success of this scheme that Government's final decision in this matter should be published at the earliest possible date as their doing so will have the effect of steadying the local markets at present exploited by buyers who are taking full advantage of the extreme financial difficulties in which planters are now placed, by offering prices which are totally inadequate for the needs of the Industry, but must be accepted by those who have no cash and are not offered any assistance.

(3). That this scheme shall only take into account Plantation and Native Coffee. The former with the usual 7% of Triage and the latter to be garbled to the Havre Standard.

All inferior grades shall be excluded.

(4). That the sale of stocks of coffee on hand on and after April 15th to Government shall be at the option of the holders of such stocks.

(5). We suggest that the recognised Coffee Curing Firms be appointed the Agents to act in all matters connected with this scheme between Government and the Planter and that they be requested to give all assistance in their power to Government by advice and action in the disposal of any coffee purchased by Government.

(6). That all stocks of coffee remaining on April 15th shall be sold to Government in the cured state as the best means of settling the account yearly and that it be pointed out to Government that so long as this coffee be kept in a thoroughly dry climate such as Karachi and Tuticorin it would not deteriorate.

What has been said in the past about coffee deteriorating applied only to coffee kept on the Coast after a certain period.

(7). That in the event of considerable stocks of coffee being held by Government at the termination of this scheme, shipment shall be made in the ratio of three tons of such stocks to every one ton of other coffee shipped until these stocks be liquidated except in the case of markets for which old stocks are unsuitable which shall be free. That Government shall have control over the export of coffee from India until these stocks are disposed of.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Priority.

Issuing certain amendments to G. O. No. 3089, Revenue, dated 2nd October, 1917, on the subject of the supply of tools to coffee and tea estates.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

G. O. No. Mis. 370. Dated 30th January, 1918.

Read the following papers:—G. O. No. 3089, Revenue, dated 2nd October, 1917.

ORDER—The following amendments will be made in G. O. No. 3089, Revenue, dated 2nd October, 1917:—

(1). Add "mamooties" to the group "digging forks, hoes and Fork hoes" against which a scale of 175 for 500 acres is fixed.

(2). Delete the word "mamooties" in the last sentence of the Government Order.

A. R. KNAPP,
Acting Secretary to Government.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Wynaad Planters' Association. As regards para 2369, we have sent any applications from Merchants for the purchase of Tea and Coffee to Messrs. Parry & Co., who have very kindly undertaken to do their utmost for both products locally. These applications were received after the Madras Exhibition, of which we publish a short report from a contributor. It is for the planters of Southern India to follow up the best free advertisement they have ever received.

The Director, Labour Department publishes what we regret to think may be the last (at least for a time) of his useful articles.

We have just received, in time for this week's issue, a request from the Chairman to publish the latest telegrams on the Restriction of Rubber Output.

In our correspondence pages will be found a letter from the Chairman on the Madras Exhibition, a letter from Mr. Bell Syer, whose many friends will be glad to hear of him, and who asks what chance there will be of a Rubber billet when the war is over. Those who have the opportunity when that long hoped for end comes, will, we hope, bear him in mind. Does anyone require the services of Philip J. Gilbain who has evidently "done his bit" and writes from Secunderabad?

Messrs. Richardson and Dennis write on the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. We publish at Mr. Mahon's request a true copy of Mr. Brewer's letter to a maistry of his. We thank Messrs. Aspinwall & Co. for their letter on Prepayment of Freight on Shipments to U. S. A. Mr. Kirk writes on Rubber Tapping.

Communications very interesting and helpful to coffee planters are published, which we hope they will avail themselves of.

Correspondence from the Indian Tea Commissioner appears up to date.

Will the sender of two cases of 50 lbs. loose tea for the Madras Exhibition kindly communicate at the earliest opportunity with Messrs. Parry & Co., Madras, who received them at their Office with no receipt and no advice from the sender?

Mr. H. M. Knight writing of the South Indian Planting Association in London, says "As we thought you had inadvertently omitted Sir John D. Rees, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., M.P., from the Committee he has been asked to join and has accepted."

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on January 23rd, 1918.

PRESENT.—Sir F. Barber, Messrs. Bisset, Cheeseman, Copland, Eyre, Gauld, Gillatt, Hudson, Leslie, Lobban, Macleod, Malcolm, Morres, Powell and Abbott (Honorary Secretary). *Visitors.*—Messrs. Craig and R. Fowke.

MR. EYRE IN THE CHAIR.

2361. THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAST MEETING were confirmed. With reference to para 2356, the Honorary Secretary mentioned that shortly after the last Meeting he had heard from the Collector of Malabar that the figures he had asked for in connection with the Government purchase of tea were not required.

2362. THE HONORARY SECRETARY READ HIS ANNUAL REPORT:—

Gentlemen,—During the past year two new members have been elected, two have resigned on leaving the District and Mr. Blackham has joined the army. We now have 30 Members. Two former Members Lieutenant Davies and 2nd Lieutenant Dobree both serving in the Royal Artillery in France have received the Military Cross for gallantry in action. Both these officers have been wounded—Lieutenant Davies twice and have returned to duty.

THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT.—We were honoured by a visit from His Excellency Lord Pentland last May and we presented an address to him at the Meppadi Club. His Excellency has taken the greatest interest in Planters and their affairs in the difficult times we are passing through and we have a great deal to thank him and his Government for.

CROPS.—The yields of tea during the past year have not generally been so large as at one time seemed probable. This is to a considerable extent owing to several estates having restricted output owing to the limitation of export to the United Kingdom. But the season in the last half of the year has been against us.

ROADS.—The Roads under the District Board have been generally kept in good order. The only complaints we have had have been about the Vayitri Achoor road No. 31 where the repairs to bridges were a good deal delayed. A broken bridge on the Sultans Battery Nellakotta road caused much inconvenience for some time. The Calicut Mysore Road has had a great deal of work done on it. We passed a strong resolution on the state of the Kalpatty Sultans Battery section of this road at our last Annual Meeting. There has been a great improvement during the past year. The rest of the road in spite of the very heavy traffic on it has been kept in good order.

REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES.—The Committee appointed by the Malabar District Board of which our representative Mr. Gillatt was a member reported in favour of the registration of vehicles. The majority of the

Board voted for it and the question is now before Government. This Association has all along advocated this measure and we hope it is now likely to come into force. Mr. Gillatt will explain the bye-laws under which it will be worked. We have to thank him for the work he has done for us.

POODAPADY HOTEL.—We voted a sum of money last year for repairs and improvements to the Poodapady Hotel and these have been carried out under Mr. Gillatt's supervision. He also prepared a scheme for working the Hotel to which we agreed at our last meeting. He has taken a great deal of trouble in the matter and is good enough to have promised to continue to look after our interests for which we are much obliged to him. It is hoped that the place will now pay its way and that except for thatching the Association will not be called on to find any further money.

RESETTLEMENT OF WYNAAD.—This has now been taken in hand and Mr. Todd I. C. S., the Special Settlement Officer came to our December Meeting and explained the lines on which it is proposed to carry it out. A discussion followed and Mr. Todd very kindly sent me a summary published with the last proceedings which is very accurate except perhaps, as the Chairman has pointed out that we objected rather more strongly against any increase of taxation especially at a time like the present when our prospects are so uncertain. I think the general feeling about the Government's proposals amongst those who have written to me that they are quite reasonable.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—This is a matter that would ordinarily not come within the scope of a review of a District Association's years work. You have all however received copies of the Planting Member's letter to the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. and have seen that we are asked to give an opinion on the proposals. Several Associations have done so already and you have seen their views in the *Planters' Chronicle*. The subject was started by a resolution proposed by Mr. Lake the South Mysore Representative and passed unanimously at the Bangalore Meeting asking the Control Committee to prepare a scheme for the reduction of the subscription to the Labour Department to a rupee an acre. The Control Committee has put forward a scheme by which it is proposed to amalgamate all the Departments of the U.P.A.S.I. Secretarial, Scientific and Labour for a subscription of Rs1-12-0 for Tea and Rubber and Rs1-4-0 for other products. If this reduction is to be made it means that the whole subscribing acreage of the U.P.A.S.I. at present 164,000 must give its adherence. In Wynaad out of 11,256 acres belonging to the Association less than 5,000 subscribes to the Labour Department. As one of the Control Committee I would be very glad to see the whole of the estates here belong. The Department is as you know recognised by Government in various ways. There are certain to be troubled times ahead for all employers of labour and the advantages of Planters in South India being united in such a matter are obvious. If you are convinced of this it is only a question of cost. Mr. Nicolls has pointed out more than once that the cost is really small. The suggestion has been made that Firms controlling large interests ought to be represented on the Control Committee. I hope that if the re-organisation does take place this will be given effect to. The Meetings during the past year have been well attended and I have to thank all the members for their assistance and kindness. I now submit the accounts and if they are found in order will ask you to accept my resignation.

The accounts were passed and are circulated to Members. Mr. Abbott was re-elected Honorary Secretary and thanked for his services during the year.

2363. RESIGNATION.—Read Mr. N. C. Whitton's letter resigning his membership, he having left the District. This was accepted with regret.

2364. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.—Messrs. Barber & Pascoe and Mr. W. A. Gilbert were elected Members.

2365. PLANTERS AND POLICE.—The Chairman read Sir F. Barber's letter of December 2nd: —

Ootacamund,
2nd December, 1917.

The Honorary Secretary,
Wynaad Planters' Association,
Meppadi P. O.

Dear Sir,—Sometime ago I was asked to complain about the non-service of warrants by the Malabar Police in Wynaad. I have now received a letter from the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, a copy of which I enclose. This letter speaks for itself, and from further enquiries made by myself from the Deputy Director of the Labour Department, I find that this letter of Mr. Thomas is written on the strength of 15 proved cases during the last year. I feel sure that you will agree that this is a disgraceful matter, and one which cannot be tolerated. I have written to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police and have asked him to do as he suggests and to apply for warrants for service in Wynaad under section 87 of the Criminal Procedure Code. I have also put the matter before Government, and I have suggested that any planter whose name may be put forward by the Police as being thought to obstruct the service of warrants should be removed from the list of those who are empowered to attest labour contracts under Act 1 of 1903. I feel sure that in doing this I have the concurrence of yourself and of your Association for if this matter of obstruction goes on as it has done in the past the whole position will become intolerable. The Wynaad Planter will lose his good name and we shall have the scandal of the Police prosecuting a planter under a section of the Indian Penal Code.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) E. F. BARBER.

And Mr. Thomas' letter of November 23rd:—

Office of the
Deputy Inspector-General of Police,
Western Range,
Camp.—Cannanore, 23—11—1917.

My dear Barber,—Some time last year you wrote demi-officially to the Inspector-General of Police on the subject of the execution of labour warrants, the execution of which by the Police had not been universally satisfactory, particularly in North Malabar. The matter was referred to me and I went into it closely in Malabar and South Canara both with the Police and the labour Agents. I also examined the details of a very large number of cases at many different Police stations in that area. The Police have since been devoting special attention to the matter, especially in North Malabar, and Windle, in particular, has gone out of his way to assist the Labour Department.

2. I do not think that we have left anything possible undone, or that the execution of warrants, in general, is now unsatisfactory. But we are having considerable difficulty over the execution of warrants on certain Estates, owing to the action of the Planters themselves.

3. It was arranged some time ago that, when the Police obtained information that a warrantee was living on any particular Estate, the Police should ask the Planter to find him. This was done in order to avoid friction likely to be caused by the search of Estate coolly lines etc and the consequent disturbance of labour conditions.

The Police have kept their part of the agreement and have always accepted the word of a Planter that any particular warrantee supposed to be on his estate was not to be found there,

4. I regret to say that the Planters have not invariably kept their part of the agreement, and a considerable number of cases have recently occured in which particular planters have certified that warrantees were not on their estates, though, as a matter of fact, they were publicly known to be there. In several of these cases, this has been proved, and it has been established beyond doubt either that the Planter did not take any trouble to make enquiries, or he gave the Police a certificate which was deliberately incorrect. This is notorious in the case of one particular planter, and the labour Department could give any details required.

5. It seems to me that this is a difficulty which the Planters own Association ought to be able to settle, and I am therefore writing to you to ask if this cannot be done. If it cannot be thus settled, the Police will have to take such steps as may be necessary to enforce the execution of these warrants and this might be followed by unpleasant results which have hitherto been avoided in most places by a straight forward adherence on both sides to the agreement described above.

6. If there is any further difficulty, I intend to direct the Police on the West Coast to apply for warrants under section 87 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The possession of such a warrant would enable them to deal with any ordinary difficulty under section 187 of the Indian Penal Code. I hope, however, that the matter can be settled otherwise.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) P. B. THOMAS,

Dy. Inspector General of Police, W. R.

The Chairman made the following remarks:—

Before Sir F. Barber addresses the meeting on the subject of non-service of warrants and before there is any discussion on the particular case that is before us, I would like as Chairman to express my Association's opinion on Sir F. Barber's letter to this Association dated December 2nd. It is quite incomprehensible to us how he could have written such a letter to any Planters Association.

There are two paras in the letter to which our Association take strong exception.

Para 1. Quoting Sir F. Barber, "I have written to the Deputy Inspector General of Police and have asked him to do as he suggests and

to apply for warrants for service in the Wynaad under section 87 of the Criminal Procedure Code." Sir F. Barber states that he makes this request on account of 15 proved cases of obstruction against Wynaad Planters. Proved by whom? Would it not have been the more correct, and certainly the more courteous thing to have done, to have first referred the matter to this Association for an enquiry as suggested by Mr. Thomas, in common justice to the planters concerned to enable them to say what they had to say in their own defence, and to decide whether it was necessary to take further and more unpleasant action.

I will now take para 2, again quoting Sir F. Barber. "I have also put the matter before Government etc." Sir F. Barber suggests that any member of this Association who is thought to have obstructed the police or any member of this Association whose name is suggested by the police is to be punished. I might even say prosecuted, judging from Mr. Waddington's letter of December 10th "With regards to what Nicolls said, as to my being opposed to the methods proposed by Barber. The only difference of opinion was, I think, that Barber thought the best plan would be for the Police to prosecute———and the others responsible in recent cases; whereas I was anxious to avoid the publicity of a prosecution of a Planter, and favoured, if Government are as satisfied with the proof of his obstruction, as the Police are, that they remove his name from those authorised to attest contracts under Act I." Our Association is not to be referred to, the particular member of our Association is not to be given an opportunity to defend himself but is to be punished, if he is thought to have obstructed the police, or if the police of Wynaad for any reason wish to put forward his name.

The particular planter who is thought to have obstructed the police may not have done so but he is to be punished whether or not as the case may go. I take it prosecution spells punishment. Again, I would suggest that it would have been the more correct procedure on Sir F. Barber's part to have first referred the whole matter to this Association before writing to Government suggesting the prosecution or punishing of individual members of our Association, on a purely ex-parte statement, and without any reference to us, as suggested by Mr. Thomas in para 5 of his letter, dated 23rd November.

Mr. Thomas it will be noted is strongly adverse to the prosecution of any planter unless absolutely necessary and certainly not before a full enquiry has been held by the particular Association to which the said planter happens to be a member. We think it is up to Sir F. Barber to apologise to this Association and withdraw his letter of December 2nd and to write Government withdrawing his letter in which he suggested the punishment or prosecution of individual planters who are thought to have obstructed the police.

Then Mr. Malcolm said:—

I should like to make a few remarks on this matter. I do not think Sir F. Barber should have written as he did to the Association and think he should withdraw his letter. He is the Planters' representative and as such holds his brief for the Planters and not for the Government; and it seems to me that it does not come within his province to ask the Government or police to take any action against a Planter such as he has suggested in his letter. When a case such as the present one occurs I think Planters expect to look to their representative to see they get fair play, and before any

charge is made or action taken the Planter accused should have the opportunity of explaining himself and have been given a hearing. I do not think the Planting Member should take any action in such case unless requested to do so by the Council of the U. P. A. S. I.

Sir F. Barber said he was not prepared to reply categorically to Mr. Eyre's remarks not having been sent a copy of them before the Meeting. Regarding Mr. Waddington's letter his suggestion was made in conversation some months ago, but he had nothing to withdraw from his letter except that he wished to alter two words "proved" and "thought" to "corroborated" and "found." The following resolution was passed. "That this Association regrets that Sir F. Barber will not withdraw his letter of December 2nd: we accept his statement that he has never thought that the Wynaad Planters' Association was implicated in the matter. We consider that the whole of the cases mentioned in his letter should be thoroughly gone into by the Association and all evidence held by the Labour Department should be put before it." Proposed by Mr. Abbott seconded by Mr. Gillatt and carried.

The Chairman thanked Sir F. Barber on behalf of the members for having attended the Meeting.

2366. RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—The consideration of this subject was postponed. The proposed alterations are described in Sir F. Barber's letter in the *Planters' Chronicle* of December 15th.

2367. LIQUOR SHOPS IN WYNAAD.—With reference to the U.P.A.S.I. circular December 20th the Meeting considers that the arrangements are at present on the whole satisfactory and that it approved of the suggestion made in the Board of Revenue's letter that Planters' Associations should be consulted before outlying shops are sanctioned in planting districts. It was pointed out that this is done now in Wynaad where a list of proposed sites for the following year is always sent to us by the Divisional Officer (see para 2351 Proceedings of Oct. 24th 1917). Mr. Morres suggested that the shop at Chundale was unnecessary being less than 3 miles from Vayitri. Read also letter from Messrs. Barber & Pascoe stating that Mr. Rowsell considered the shop at Dindimal objectionable. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to address the Divisional Officer about these.

2368. CART REGISTRATION.—Mr. Gillatt read the bye-laws that will be in force under this measure. These are to be printed and circulated when sanctioned by Government.

2369. TOTAL SALES OF TEA.—Read letter from the Secretary U. P. A. S. I. stating that enquiries had been made by merchants at the Madras Exhibition as to what estates would sell tea and suggesting that sample packets should be sent to him with details of price and locality where the tea is grown. Members are asked to communicate with Mr. Norton.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) E. E. EYRE,
Chairman.

(,,) C. E. ABBOTT,
Honorary Secretary.

THE MADRAS EXHIBITION.

The U. P. A. S. I. Stall.

There is nothing in the appearance of Tea, Coffee, or Cardamoms, which in itself is capable of being made into a striking object for advertisement. A mountain of tea, capped with snowy cardamoms, and surrounded with flowing rivers of coffee might compel attention. With rubber it is otherwise, as it is unfamiliar to most people, and an object of curiosity. In its different forms of crepe, blanket, sheet, smoked and otherwise, with various patterns stamped thereon, it even excites admiration, which leads to handling and testing its elasticity, and this impresses itself on the memory and is a subject of conversation thereafter. A nibble at the seeds of a cardamom has also a lasting and pervading effect. For Exhibition purposes, the other products largely depend on the appearance of the cases, boxes and packets in which they are shown, or the manner in which these are presented to view. At the Madras Exhibition which opened on the 21st December 1917 and closed on the 15th January 1918, the U. P. A. S. I. is to be congratulated on the way in which full advantage was taken of the possibilities of the occasion. Ample space was allotted, and therefore there was room for display. Just as the beauty of a picture is brought out by a margin, and a suitable frame, so it is necessary for an Exhibit to have space to itself. It can then be examined, without attention being distracted by the jostling proximity of other articles.

On entering the stall, the first thing to catch the eye are the large red letters on the walls, draped with white cloth "UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA, INCORPORATED." There is no mistake about it. On the end wall is the monogram with motto complete, and under this, in what must be considered the place of honour, was deservedly placed a very striking Exhibit. It hit the eye, it excited the imagination and compelled attention—"H. M. A. S. SYDNEY" in coffee tins. Even the cannon were represented with different sized tins, arranged in telescope fashion. Pretty coloured cardboard sailors manned the ship, which with the liberal display of Union Jacks made a true example of the advertisers' art. Other Coffee from other districts was shown in all its grades, peaberry as usual being most considered.

TEA was well to the fore, some excellent cabinets being shown. One particularly deserves mention—it was of polished blackwood, the inside of the open lid gave the name of the estate, etc. In separate compartments covered with removable glass, were all the grades of manufactured tea. A few fancy teas were shown by some estates, and very beautiful they were, but they were examined as objects of curiosity, ordinary visitors seeming to realize that this was not the commercial stuff to which they were accustomed. Several Estates showed tea in packets, and possible purchasers made enquiries for these. But the Indian people still prefer coffee to tea. It was a great idea to have these products on sale at the Refreshment Rooms, a fact that was well advertized. "Where can we get this tea or this coffee." I had cups of both at the Exhibition, and found them well prepared and excellent in every way, so that the trouble and expense was justified.

CARDAMOMS.—Exhibits were few, and consequently there was not enough to supply the demand for a chew. While I was present, I shelled out from the samples, but only one at a time. If the Exhibitors have empty cases returned to them without any sale proceeds,

they must blame me. In return for the pleasure it gave me, I drew attention to the place where they were grown.

RUBBER.—"What a pretty waistcoat that would make." I wonder how many times a similar remark was made. I heard it twice myself, my visits were only occasional. There was an ample display, and room to test the stuff, of which free advantage was taken. Of course one does not expect to sell crude rubber in India.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.—Had a corner to itself where its maps and advertisements were on view.

In the opposite corner was the "Enquiry Office" where full information was available throughout.

Altogether the show was well thought out, well got up and well managed.

The question arises, HOW ARE S. INDIAN PLANTERS GOING TO FOLLOW IT UP?

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

A. was a troublesome maistry on the Estate where he was employed in 1915. He took to putting his advance out at interest, instead of paying it to coolies, and when brought to book he settled up matters through the court. In 1916 he was unfortunately advanced again, and again played the fool. The contracts he produced proved to be false, as the coolies concerned had received only a part of the sums they were supposed to have been paid. When we got on his track he took refuge with a brother-in-law, and by September called the coolies he had supplied off the Estate, and was reported to have taken them to Ceylon, but this was a false trail. He really went to an Estate in another S. Indian District. A warrant was obtained and he was followed there, and although a search was made for several days he was not actually caught, and escaped again to his brother-in-law, whither he was at once followed, but he managed to evade arrest. We accordingly applied for a proclamation warrant, and after a great delay this was granted, but it appears never to have reached the District Superintendent of Police. We sent a copy by our own agent, and finding further evasion impossible, his brother-in-law paid up the full claim in July, 1917.

B. As we hope he is now a reformed character, we will not recite all his former misdeeds. In December 1916 we received a warrant for his arrest. The Agent in charge of it found he had gone to another Planting district, where, however, he was not found. Further search was in progress when the warrant lapsed. A fresh warrant was obtained, and a man came down from the Estate to identify the defaulter which he failed to do. A special Agent then discovered the warrantee was going to attend a wedding at a certain village, but we just missed him there, but by this time he found the bustling was too inconvenient, and returned to work, the matter passing out of our hands in July 1917.

C. was caught on the way to Negapatam, where he was going *enroute* to the Straits. He returned to the Estate from which he had bolted.

D. was merely a cooly from whom a maistry asked us to recover Rs. 10/6, he successfully evaded us, and we reported the case as "undisposable," but like all such cases, it was borne in mind. The end of the case

is shown in the following extract from an Agent's report dated 29-11-17. "I managed to get the defaulter D, and his daughter from the custody of the Penang recruiter and have sent them up to the Estate with a guide. I also packed up Q. along with the above to work off his debt of Rs. 69-7-0. The fellow has been hiding for the last 2 and a half years and returned from a non-subscribing Estate to his village only last week."

E. A Moplah was advanced Rs. 50 in November 1915, but never returned to the Estate or sent a cooly, was warranted but could not be caught till October 1916 when he was given till 23rd of that month to pay up. This he failed to do, but pleaded for a few days more time, which was granted. On the 8th November he appeared in Court with a cow, which was duly handed over to us, but the next day before we could realize on it, the real owner of the cow appeared and claimed it. E. was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for breach of contract and then tried for stealing the cow for which he was punished with two years rigorous.

N.B.—You can steal Rs. 50 from a planter and only get one month simple, but if you steal a cow worth Rs. 10 you will get 2 years rigorous imprisonment.

F. got an advance of Rs.600 on the strength of recommendations from G. and H. and signed a pro-note in 1911. He supplied a few coolies, and his account was still on the wrong side by the above amount when we took up the matter. The pro-note was of course barred by limitation. Much enquiry ended in our getting information from H. who had left the Estate and had become disinterested, that F. was only the nominal executant of the document, but that he (H.) with G. were the actual recipients of the money, and that he had settled up with G., from whom eventually the money was recovered.

I, that is, myself. My Head-clerk having taken 3 months leave, I find it impossible to continue this series of articles for the present.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,

Director.

Restriction of Rubber Output.

Telegram dated 30th January 1918 from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo, to the Ceylon Association in London, London:

"Your telegrams regarding Rubber Growers' Proposals reduce crop fully discussed by Estate Agents' Association and Chamber Committee. Both desire information asked for in Chamber's telegram of 27th December be furnished. Need for conserving tonnage fully appreciated but consider support of even 70 per cent. of Estates represented by Rubber Growers' Association equal say 30 per cent. total planted areas Middle Further East insufficient to warrant adoption proposals apart from difficulty formulating scheme which would be strictly adhered to."

Telegram dated 5th February 1918 from the Ceylon Association in London, London, to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo.

"Rubber restriction already have nine-tenths required support cable this week acreage local companies agreeing restrict Rubber Growers' Association basis."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Daverashola Estate.
Devarshola P. O.,
Nilgiris, 8th February, 1918.

To THE SECRTARY, U. P. A. S. I.,
25, South Parade,
Bangalore.

Madras Exhibition.

Dear Sir,—From copies of your office correspondence, I see you have received a letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Mundakayam Association. I have not seen the letter, so, cannot reply further than you have. I regret the Mundakayam Association have been offended in some way or other. I also regret that in arranging our exhibits, I had to work single-handed, there being no other planters present to help me. I paid three visits to Madras and went to the Exhibition frequently on each occasion and did all I could to make our department attractive. The whole of one side of our building was given up to Rubber. Planting Exhibits were shown as a combined "United Planters' Association of Southern India Exhibit" and not that of individual Exhibitors, and for which we were granted a "Diploma of Excellence." This I am forwarding you to be framed and hung in the U. P. A. S. I. office in Bangalore.

The thanks of the U. P. A. S. I. are due to "The Director of Agriculture" for the great interest he took in our exhibits and for the space given us in his Department's building free of cost. Individual Exhibitors had to pay One Rupee per Sq. ft. I think the Exhibition was a great success in every way and for which we are in no small way indebted to Messrs. Parry & Co. and to the energies of Mr. Trutwein whom they engaged for us.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. NICOLLS.
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

Kastamoni,
29—8—17.

South India Planters' War Fund.

Dear Norton,—I daresay you wondered why you never got an answer to your letter, re: the Planters' Fund, written to me some time in November 1915. As a matter of fact I received it just before we were cut off at Kut-al-Amara, and so was of course unable to answer it. This is a bit late in the day to do so, but better late than never.

To tell the truth I cannot remember exactly what yours was about, and I have not got it with me having destroyed all my papers at the fall of Kut.

How are things your way, I suppose the war has not very much effect on you people in India. This of course is the very deuce, and is about the most monotonous and dreary way of spending one's life imaginable.

By the way what is the chance of a billet in Rubber after the war, will there be openings do you think? If you have a spare moment some time or other you might let me have your views on the subject.

I hear that coffee up Saklaspur way is rather a wash out this year, which is a pity, as I suppose they have been rather hit by the war.

Saunders who is here sends you his salaams.

Remember me to any of the Saklaspur crowd when you see them. With my best salaams,

Yours sincerely,

L. BELL SYER.

Peermade,

1st February 1918.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I.

Sir,—If anything on this earth can waken up the planter of Southern India to a sense of his own responsibility surely the fact that an important paper like the *Madras Mail* whose space as we all know is valuable should devote close on 5½ columns to planting matters in its issue of the 28th ultimo.

The *Madras Mail* has championed the cause of the European and level-headed Indians in the present political controversy which has been going on for some years and I am sure I may safely say it represents the views of 99% of the planting community in this. It cannot be accused of looking for copy to fill up its valuable space and is not likely to make room as it has done in its issue of the 28th for matters of no importance.

I would first refer to its editorial note on the meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association and a somewhat lengthy epistle on the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. In this it supports the views put forward in the article under the heading of "The Planting Industry" and this article goes a step further than we achieved before and lays down something definite to work on.

I will now refer to the proceedings of the Nilgiri Association meeting and the admirable speeches made by the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, Sir Fairless Barber, Mr. Kenna and others.

Mr. Dandison puts forward a very strong case which should be sufficient for any body of men but planters, and Sir Fairless hit the nail on the head when he said "planters as a body had never been ready for any emergency" and in my opinion never can and never will be until the proprietors and companies for whom they work insist on combination. I am quite aware this is a very strong statement to make and will no doubt bring down on my head the wrath of many of my brother planters.

The planter is the most independent man on earth and it has no doubt stood him and the industry in good stead in the past, but as the article in the *Madras Mail* above referred to, points out times are changing and there are commercial and political views of the matter now to be considered which entail the subordination of our more personal and private ideas for the good of the majority.

I do not want to moralise on the subject but this undoubtedly is the hardest lesson the planter has to learn.

Having no doubt raised the ire of a good many of my brother planters, I will now proceed with the main object of my letter—the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.—and in the process will no doubt knock a few more chips off some of the "hard cases" who are up against the re-organisation scheme if the Labour Department is to be included. This brings me rather near

home as a neighbouring district has, I believe, refused to have anything to do with any re-organisation scheme which includes the Labour Department. My reply to them is that provided they get what other assistance they require on an all-round subscription lower than they could do it for themselves, their contention will not stand. This particular Association has the courage of its convictions and I trust they will take my remarks in the same good part as I take theirs.

Labour is the foundation of the whole planting industry and it cannot be eliminated from the U. P. A. S. I. Sir Fairless Barber in his speech at the Nilgiri meeting hinted at the possibility of Government assistance for the Labour Department, and this would undoubtedly go a long way to solve the difficulty, and I trust the matter will not be allowed to drop here.

Scientific help without labour is of no value and it is very selfish of those districts who are so favorably placed as not to require the assistance of the Labour Department to refuse to support a combined scheme which will help their more unfortunate neighbours in this respect if they can get all they require from the other departments of the Association. Mr. Dandison says he has not had his money's worth out of the Labour Department but perhaps he is like others I can mention who have joined as a matter of principle and looked on it from a broad-minded point of view and also as an insurance for the future. It is very difficult to make out an actual dividend on paper on an investment of this sort, but to my mind it has actually paid one to subscribe and the non-subscriber almost proportionately. The moral of the Kangany or Maistry has been vastly improved by the Labour Department. The habit of downright premeditated swindling by taking advances from several estates at one time by dishonest Kanganies has been checked and this has benefited both subscribers and non-subscribers alike. Restriction of advances has no doubt been accomplished to some extent but as a general scheme is impossible under present conditions.

As regards the complaints about the cost of running the department I would refer planters to Mr. C. H. Browne's recent letter in the *Chronicle*.

I am afraid I have already transgressed beyond the limits of your space but to get down to bedrock, I endorse the views put forward in the article in the *Madras Mail* of the 28th ultimo under the heading of "The Planting Industry" and the editorial note thereon.

We undoubtedly have differences but let us meet and discuss them and I am sure we can come to an amicable understanding. We have now got to go beyond the scope of Associations. Let us have a meeting of the whole planting community of Southern India and as well as all Banks and commercial firms interested. Let those who *cannot* attend give their neighbours proxies but I would urge every proprietor or manager representing home interests to be present. Make it a meeting of the Planting Industry of Southern India and ask Government to send representatives and let every estate bear the expense of its representation and appoint one or two members of its district to organise the meeting. Hold the meeting in Madras early in April and if it lasts for a week the money spent would be a good investment and I am sure no company or proprietor would object to the expense.

In recognition of all His Excellency the Governor of Madras has done for the Planting Industry I would propose that we ask His Excellency to open the conference and preside at the first day's meeting.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. RICHARDSON.

Kurkenmutty Estate,
Santaveri,
Birur, M. & S. M. Ry.,
February 7th, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Sir Fairless Barber's letter of the 23rd ultimo and particularly to the latter part of the second para, I have been asked by several members of my Association to disassociate us from Mr. W. L. Crawford's, now Major Crawford, remarks made at the Jubilee Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association, held at Saklaspur, on March 16th and 17th, 1914, at the time the speech was made we were astonished, and puzzled as to where these Estates in Mysore were that gave such good dividends, we would not now allude to the speech but as it has been mentioned by our Planting Member we must enter our protest, the part of Major Crawford's speech that men in this District object to is:—

"I know of one group of Estates in Mysore aggregating 1000 acres that have given an average annual profit over a period of 22 years of seven thousand five hundred pounds, and another property of 500 acres that has yielded its fortunate owner during the past 10 years an annual profit of three thousand pounds."

This, of course, refutes the retort we got from a Tea man as to whether Coffee was "moribund," and the query I think was the result of our asking for a lesser subscription (1 · an acre) to the Labour Department than Tea and Rubber pay, our plea being, that Coffee did not employ so many coolies per acre as those Industries do and therefore would not trouble the Department so much.

Such public statements as the above are to be deprecated as they react unfavourably on those who do not do so well.

Yours faithfully,
S. H. DENNIS.

Pollibetta,
Coorg, India,
5th February, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Labour Etiquette.

Dear Sir,—The enclosed is a translation of a letter written in Malayalam, as received by one of our Maistries from a gentleman, who was lately in our employ. If, we Europeans do not play the game towards each other, how can we expect our Labour Department to give us the full benefit of its professed aims and ambitions?

And this has not been the only case of our coolies being crimped of late.

Yours faithfully,
E. L. MAHON.

The English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies,
(Incorporated in England),
Murugalli Estate,
Valparai P. O., S. India.
11th January, 1917.

To
Battian Maistry,
Palparry Estate.

From Mr. Brewer.

If you are willing to work under me, I could give you advance, if you come here as soon as you have settled your accounts with Palparry. You must buy ticket from Cannanore to Pollachi. When you get down at Pollachi, if you go to Krishna Singh and mention that you are going to my place, he will send you by Shandy cart of Shop-keeper Chetty. You must reach Pollachi on Thursday. Rest in person. If you can bring some Marther women, you will get some good profitable weeding work. Bapoo Maistry would be coming this side. You better come along with him.

(Sd.) JOHN D. BREWER.

(True Copy,)

E. L. MAHON.

Aspinwall & Co., Ltd.

Cochin,
6th February, 1918.

THE CHAIRMAN, U. P. A. S. I.,
Daverashola Estate,
Devarshola P. O.

Pre-payment of Freight on Shipments to U. S. A.

Dear Sir,—With reference to our letter of the 7th ultimo, we have pleasure in informing you for the information of planters generally that in connection with the "City of Bristol" shortly expected to load for the above destination, we have been able to arrange for all freight to be prepaid in sterling in London by telegraphic remittance.

We are not in a position to promise that this concession will have general application, but we trust planters will appreciate the fact that steamer Agents and Steamship Companies are, where possible, desirous of assisting shippers in these difficult times.

We trust you will send this letter up for publication.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
For ASPINWALL & Co., LTD.
(Signed) E. H. COOPER.
Managing Director.

Peravanthanam Estate,
Mundakayam, S. India.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Rubber Tapping.

Dear Sir,—The Director of Agriculture's suggestion that we should restrict our rubber output by tapping on every third day instead of every day or alternate day, should be considered from various aspects. We have now at least three suggestions for restriction of rubber output. Before we

consider these it will be well to ascertain what we are asked to restrict output for. The first idea of the R. G. A. is to release shipping space for transport of troops, and the suggestion was that we should limit output ourselves preferably to Government limiting our shipping. It is more than likely that Government have already limited our shipping for us, by lowering rubber from No. 1 place in priority of shipping to No. 3 or 4. We understand that it is on account of there being large stocks of rubber at home, that we can well be limited in our shipping now. The limitation of tea shipments had the disastrous effect of rushing tea prices up from round about 1s. to over 3s., with the natural corollary that the poorer classes suffered at home.

The probable aftermath of lowering the priority of rubber and limiting its shipment and voluntary reduction of output, will be a raising of prices, and the riposte to this will be Government fixed prices for rubber as for tea. How they will fix them, *quien sabe*, as they certainly cannot do this on pre-war averages, or they will be giving us higher prices than we now get on the open market.

No 2 suggestion for limiting output emanates from Ceylon, and is the stopping of tapping in older acreages, which require a rest. This is quite good, and might well be carried further and tapping stopped in young Fields which are perhaps being tapped too early.

Then we have Mr. Anstead's third day tapping suggestion. Both these last suggestions limit output, do the estate no harm, release shipping space for other articles which are probably not required half as much for war purposes as rubber. They have one disadvantage, that they both disorganise estates with good long-established labour forces.

In rubber we have seen that each year shows our labour requirements to be less, and estates which five years ago were employing 700 coolies have now employment for 500 only, and this figure will get less, as thinning out lessens the number of trees to be tapped and dense cover lessens the weeding bill. Eliminating old or young rubber from the tapping round, will mean getting rid of old coolies *en bloc* and not by "selection of the worst" as we can now do. Reducing tapping to every third day, means getting rid of two-thirds of our tappers, or probably one-third of our labour force, and not the worst third at that.

I make one suggestion which appears to me to help the situation, by at once limiting "SHIPMENTS," releasing shipping space for troop transport, without disorganising any labour force, and most probably improving the plantation rubber *mark*, and raising its price to the level of Fine Hard. To forbid the shipment of all grades of scrap rubber. This at once reduces output by 15 to 20%. This might be combined with any of the other suggestions re "tapping less". The scrap can well be stored and it is more than likely that the price of First Latex rubber will show a sufficient rise to ensure rubber growers against heavy loss.

It is a certainty that after peace is declared, Germany must be a large buyer of rubber. LET HER HAVE ALL THIS STORED SCRAP FIRST, while we establish our rubber markets with best grade rubber.

Yours faithfully,

H. B. KIRK.

Government Tea Purchase Scheme.

Copy of telegram dated the 7th February 1918 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number twenty five Your fifty three sixty one sixty two. Arrange to ship excess if space available. If some gardens unable to have balance forty percent ready you must ship other tea rather than miss tonnage. Unnecessary for you to make contracts with London controlled concerns tendering over forty percent. Calcutta Sale bought teas although Bills of Lading made out to order of private firms you certify that shipment is really on Government account thus effecting a saving in freight and insurance. Your forty five. Percentage of tonnage confirmed with Shipping Conference in Calcutta on lines of your cable."—"FOODMINDERS."

Memo No. 5428-43 T.C., dated the 8th February, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings,
Calcutta.

From

Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses and Firms or Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 9th February 1918.

Gentlemen,—At the instance of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, I enquired from the Food Controller whether, in the case of concerns controlled in India, which shipped teas on private account from the 1st November 1917 till Government shipments began in December last, the teas being taken over by the Food Controller on arrival in the United Kingdom, I might pay value of such teas at the temporary flat rate, plus ocean freight, pending the fixation of the contract prices and adjustment of the intermediate charges. The Food Controller has now instructed me as follows:—

"You may pay for teas Indian controlled concerns at the temporary flat rate, but freight and insurance should be paid by us in sterling here to avoid provision unnecessary rupees."

Indian controlled concerns may, therefore, submit for counter-signature invoices of cost, in the usual way, for all teas shipped by them to the United Kingdom on and from ths 1st November 1917, with copies of the Bills of Lading or other evidence that the teas were shipped. The invoices of cost should contain information as to the number of chests and pounds of tea shipped by each concern, and ten cess, export duty, brokerage, and stamp duty on Bills of Exchange and Bills of Lading may be charged, but

not ocean freight nor insurance. The Bills of Exchange may be drawn on the Financial Secretary, Ministry of Food at four months from date without documents other than the triplicate invoices of cost duly countersigned. The usual number of invoices of cost (five in the case of Northern India Concerns and six in the case of Southern India Concerns) should be submitted to my office or that of the Collector of Customs, Madras, as the case may be. Where the contract price has been fixed in respect of the teas of any Concern, the bills may be drawn at such rate instead of the temporary flat rate.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 5463—5524—T.C., dated the 9th February, 1918.
To the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Headquarters, 9th Division,
Supply and Transport Corps,
Contracts and Stocks.

No. Cont 506. Bangalore, the 11th February, 1918.

From The Officer in Charge Supply Depots,
9th Division.

To THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Coffee.

Sir,—I have the honour to state that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India is desirous of getting into touch with Coffee Planters in the Mysore Province with a view to ascertaining what quantities of coffee they have for sale during the year and at what price they would be prepared to sell to Government for issue to Troops as a ration.

2. As it is probable that these planters may have at their disposal a great deal more coffee than would be required for the above purpose, it is proposed to carry out negotiations and eventual purchases through your Association or with a number of planters as may be necessary.

3. Will you be good enough to kindly give this matter your personal attention and furnish me with a complete list of the coffee planters in the Mysore Province, quantities of coffee available with them with their grades of coffee, also the rates for delivery at the Supply Depot or F.O.R. Bangalore.

4. As the above information is very urgently required by the Army Head-quarters, Delhi, I request that you will furnish me with your reply with as little delay as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) R. NICHOLSON, Lt.-Col.,
Officer in charge Supply Depots, 9th Division.

Headquarters, 9th Division,
Supply and Transport Corps
Contracts and Stocks.
No. Cont,/509, Bangalore, the 11th February, 1918.

From
The Officer in charge Supply Depots,
9th Division.

To
The Secretary.
United Planters' Association,
No. 25, South Parade, Bangalore,

Sir,—With reference to my letter No. Cont./506, dated the 11th February 1918, I have the honour to furnish hereunder contract rates accepted for coffee during the following years :—

1912-1913	...	8 annas per pound for delivery at the Station Supply Depot, the Beach, Madras.			
1913-1914	...	Rs. 0—8—8, per pound	do	do	do
1914-1915	...	Rs. 0—7—9, per pound	do	do	do

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Signed.....
Major,
for Officer in charge Supply Depots, 9th Divn.

Head Quarters, 9th Division,
Supply and Transport Corps,
No. Cont./530. Bangalore, the 12th February, 1918.

From
The Officer in charge Supply Depots, 9th Division.

To
The Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Sir,—In reply to your letter dated the 11th February 1918, I have the honour to state that, in using the term "Coffee Planters in Mysore" the Quartermaster General in India probably meant to signify the planting community of Southern India as one body, of which Mysore is the largest. It would therefore appear advisable that you should include the names of the Coffee Planters in other Provinces in Southern India as suggested.

2. As regards the quality of coffee, it is usually taken by this Corps for issue to British Troops in the form of bean and in mixed grades of "A" "B" & "C", the proportion being "A" & "B" 40% each and "C" 20%. For the current year I have accepted the supply in the proportion of "A" 59% "B" 34% and "C" 7%. The Supply is delivered in ordinary new commercial double gunny bags capable of holding 80 lbs. nett.

There is also a proposal under consideration by Army Headquarters at Delhi to issue ground coffee, but in view of the present scarcity of tin plate and the high price demanded for it, it is proposed to take this form of coffee in five pound cotton bags, and 16 of such bags going to a box.

With a view to giving Army Headquarters, the fullest possible information so that they may have all aspects of the matter before them, it would perhaps be possible for you to quote rates for all the descriptions of coffee mentioned above, both bean and ground separately. But in this connection we must not lose sight of the urgency of the matter as pointed out in para 4 of my No. C/506 of the 11th instant, and if the suggestion just made is not possible in its entirety without causing great delay, you will no doubt be able to supply such information on these lines as will enable a report to be submitted on the lines required by Army Headquarters.

3. The pre-war rates paid for coffee was communicated to you in this office No. Cont/509, dated 11th February, 1918.

4. The address of Colonel Nicholson is given in the margin and you are at liberty to communicate your reply to him direct at Delhi, but in any case a copy of the reply may please be sent to this office as the official report on the subject, after approval by the General Officer Commanding the Division, must be sent to Army Head-quarters from here.

Lieut.-Col. R. W. Nicholson, I. A.,
Hotel Cecil,
Civil Lines,
Delhi,

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Sd.) .....
Major,
for Officer in charge, Supply Depots,
9th Division.

S/11615 Pte. Philip J. Gilbain,
2nd Black Watch,
No. 4 Coy.
British Convalescent Section,
Trimulgherry, Secunderabad.

To
THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
Tea Planters' Association,
Bangalore.

Sir,—I am desirous of obtaining employment in this country, and have a fancy for Tea Planting, though have no experience whatever in the same, could you oblige me with information as to how I could obtain employment in your District, and to whom I should forward my application.

Trusting you will not look upon this as a liberty,

I have the Honor to be,
Sir,
Yours Obediently,
PHILIP J. GILBAIN.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish an article on the Use and Value of Local Manures, supplied by the Scientific Department.

Messrs. Tipping and Lake, the U. P. A. S. I. Delegates to Delhi, have returned from their interview with Government a report of which appears in this issue.

With a view of allaying any anxiety on the part of the European planters of Mysore, that what the Government of India are going to do does not apply to them, we are in a position to state that Mr. Lake, on his return to Bangalore had an interview with Mr. Bannerji, C. I. E., I. C. S., First Councillor to the Government of Mysore, and placed the whole situation and notes of his interview at Delhi before him, and that the Secretary, U. P. A. is in direct communication with the Government of Mysore with a view to getting them to act at once on the lines of the proposals put forward at the Delhi interview.

Letters are published from the Rubber Growers' Association on the Restriction of Output of Rubber, together with the circular to all producers of plantation rubber. A form of Assent is reproduced in case all rubber planters have not received one.

Correspondence on the Reorganisation of the U. P. A. S. I. from Messrs. Dandison and Leslie-Rogers appear.

The Labour Department is represented by Mr. Martin and "Rubber" in these columns.

A letter from the Indian Tea Commissioner recommends "Measures to be taken for the prevention of damage to tea chests."

A contributor has sent us an extract from *the Financier* on Colombian Coffee.

Mrs. Browne asks us to state that the proceeds of the Planters' Stationery Stall at the Our Day Fete, Bangalore, amounted to Rs. 1,919-12-0 which has been handed over to the Secretary Mr. Henry Hart.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged ...	Rs.	69,232	6 7
"K. K. L. L."	Rs.	30	0 0
Messrs. Barber and Pascoe	Rs.	75	0 0
	Rs.	69,337	6 7

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

The Use and Value of Local Manures.

At a time like the present when the strictest economy must be practised on estates and when many forms of fertilisers are unprocurable, or only procurable at very high prices, it is natural for planters to turn to local sources of manure and these of course should be utilised whenever possible. But a word of warning is necessary in this connection. It is usually the case that local manures are of the lowest possible grade, adulterated, or at any rate containing large quantities of sand and useless material, and unless they are purchasable at very low prices the object for which they are bought, *viz.*, economy, is defeated. I have recently been examining some typical cases and will first of all deal with local poonacs in South Mysore in the neighbourhood of Mudigere. The material available appears to consist of a mixture of Coconut and Castor. It can be obtained I find delivered on estates at the rate of 11 annas a maund of 30 lbs., or Rs. 51/5 per ton. Two samples I obtained of this material were analysed with the following result :—

——	A	B
*Loss on Ignition	65·74	74·09
Soluble Ash	7·26	11·89
Insoluble Matter	27·00	14.02
	100·00	100·00
*Containing Nitrogen	2·52%	2·94%

In the first place it will be noted that this material contains a large amount of sand and useless matter, and I have reason to believe that these were not exceptionally bad samples but rather that this sand content is often much higher.

Now the only value a poonac has as a fertiliser is its Nitrogen content and in this material this is very low. A good sample of Ground Nut Poonac contains 8% of Nitrogen, and an ordinary sample seldom less than 7%, and this material is at the present moment very cheap owing to the difficulty of exporting Ground Nuts. A ton of this local poonac containing say 3% of Nitrogen contains 67·2 lbs. of Nitrogen and is equivalent in Nitrogen content, and therefore manurial value, to 840 lbs. of a Ground Nut Poonac

analysing 8%, or 960 lbs. analysing 7% of Nitrogen. We are thus able to construct the following informative table :—

When Ground Nut Poonac costs per ton.	And contains Nitrogen.	The weight equivalent to one ton local poonac is.	Costing.	Add Transport to estate @ Rs. 16 per ton.	Total cost.
Rs.		lbs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
85	8%	840	31/14	6	37/14
	7%	960	36/7	6/6	42/13
80	8%	840	30	6	36
	7%	960	34/5	6/6	40/11
75	8%	840	28/2	6	34/2
	7%	960	32/3	6/6	38/9
70	8%	840	26/4	6	32/4
	7%	960	27/15	6/6	34/5

In all cases even when Ground Nut Poonac is as high as Rs.85 per ton or higher and despite the cost of transport to the estate it is much cheaper than the local poonac delivered on the estate at Rs.51 per ton.

Consider the matter in another way. The usual application of poonac to a coffee estate is 4 cwts. per acre, that is an application of 31 or 32lbs, of Nitrogen per acre. If this is applied as Ground Nut Poonac containing only 7% Nitrogen at Rs. 85 per ton it will cost Rs. 17 plus Rs. 3/4 for transport, a total of Rs. 20/4 per acre. If the same amount of Nitrogen per acre is to be applied, however, in the locally purchased poonac it will require roughly 1000 lbs, per acre costing delivered on the estate Rs. 22/14 per acre, and be it noted these figures are calculated all in favour of the local poonac.

It will be seen therefore that at the present prices it is not economical to buy local poonacs of this grade.

When Ground Nut Poonac containing 7% of Nitrogen costs, the local Poonac is worth only :—

Rs. 85 per ton.		local poonac Rs. 45/6	per ton.
„ 80 „		„ „ 43/1	„
„ 75 „		„ „ 40/14	„

and the higher the Ground Nut analyses and the less it costs the less the value of the local material.

(To be continued.)

RUDOLPH D. ANSTAED,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

COFFEE PURCHASE SCHEME

Deputation's Notes on Interview at Delhi with Government of India on February 21st, 1918.

On the day of our arrival at Delhi we called at the Offices of the Q. M. G. and were able to settle the matter of the Purchase of Coffee as a ration for the troops in the East an order being placed that morning with the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. for 100 tons of matured coffee. Their intention is to repeat this order once a quarter through the U. P. A. S. I. provided that the Coffee is liked by the troops which, we were told, was doubtful.

We pointed out that the palatableness of Coffee entirely depended on the way in which it is prepared and were told that steps had been taken to roast and grind the coffee once a week and that the actual making of the coffee was being considered so as to insure it being properly made.

With regard to the Scheme for the Purchase of coffee by Government none of the arguments we were able to bring forward in support of this had any effect in moving Government from their decision not to create a precedent by purchasing the produce of any Industry as a measure of relief.

We were, therefore obliged to consider the alternative proposal put forward by Government of Taccavi loans against both harvested and growing crops as a means of tiding over our difficulties and of assisting planters from being forced to sell at unremunerative prices from want of cash.

We were told that the present rate of interest on Taccavi loans is 6¼%.

The Government of India are recommending to the Government of Mysore the advisability of adopting this measure and it is to be hoped that they will see their way to doing so.

The 1917-18 crop, being about 7,000 tons, we estimated that half belonged to members of the U. P. A. S. I. of which one-third had already been sold according to available figures and we considered that 20 to 25 lakhs would meet our requirements for the coming year's working expenses.

The Representative of the Controller of Shipping was called in and only gave hope of very limited space being occasionally available to Australia, Suez and S. Africa. The question of export to S. Africa was brought up and the Government said they were not aware of any restriction on importation but promised to at once enquire and advise the U. P. A. S. I. on the matter. Also to advise when any tonnage was available. The Controller summed up the situation by saying "the whole question hinges on sinkings and construction."

With regard to the removal of stocks of coffee for storage to a more suitable climate during the monsoon we received the following letter from Sir George Barnes subsequent to the interview:

Government of Commerce and Industry, India.

Delhi, 21st February, 1918.

Dear Mr. Tipping,—I have seen Sir Robert Gillan and Colonel Cameron about the moving of your coffee. Will you kindly write to Col. Cameron, Controller of Traffic, Delhi, saying exactly what you want and the amounts to be moved from each station and the point to which it is to be moved. He will then try to meet your wishes as far as possible. You will remember that it is essential that wagons should not be kept waiting and that full

wagon loads must be sent. Col. Cameron says that it will be much easier to move the coffee to Coimbatore than to Tuticorin. So if Coimbatore suits you equally well, it will be wise to choose that place rather than Tuticorin.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) G. B. BARNES.

P. G. Tipping, Esq.,
Hotel Cecil, Delhi.

We are strongly of opinion that in order to deal with vital questions affecting the Coffee Industry in these critical times it is essential that a small Committee of Coffee Planters be immediately formed with the authority of the U. P. A. S. I. and that they should be given full powers to act on behalf of the Community. This being the only way in which to avoid the very serious loss of time that now occurs before any important matters can be dealt with. That with the consent of the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. this Committee be put in direct communication with the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

We wish to express our thanks to Mr. J. G. Hamilton for his invaluable help in posting us up in all the essential points of the Coffee situation which entailed a very deal great of time and trouble.

While at Delhi we met Capt. O. Tonks, Special Officer of Leave and Embarkation Committee, Ceylon and heard from him the outlines of the Ceylon Planters' Scheme for receiving officers invalided and on leave from Mesopotamia as guests in Planting Districts.

We made a point of stopping in Bombay to see Col. Ward who is the head of this Department with a view to ascertaining whether South Indian Planters' could not also help in a similar manner.

Col. Ward, in thanking us for the offer, suggested that we should send in to him the names of thcse who were willing to take in Officers as guests. We suggest that this might be done through the medium of the *Planters' Chronicle* and the kind offices of the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., and District Honorary Secretaries requesting the latter to state the amenities of the District they live in and the number of guests their members would be willing to entertain for a month at a time.

It would also be necessary for them to state which would be the most suitable months in which to receive these guests.

Although the main object of the Deputation was not achieved we feel that good has been done in that we were able to clear up many points with regard to the peculiar position of coffee in relation to other Industries. There seems little doubt that Government is prepared to help us as far as the present abnormal state of finance and shipping will permit although they are not able to do so by the direct purchase of our Produce.

We were satisfied that Government are fully considering the position of the Coffee Planters and have every intention of helping them through their present difficulties and have no intention of letting the Industry go under.

(Signed) P. G. TIPPING,
Vice-Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

(Signed) C. LAKE,
President, South Mysore P. A.

Government's Notes on the Interview.

Messrs. Tipping and Lake representing the United Planters' Association of Southern India, interviewed Sir George Barnes this morning, when Mr. Gubbay, representing the Finance Department and Mr. Ley were also present.

It was explained to the Deputation that it was out of the question for Government to purchase the unsold balance of the crop, as was proposed in the scheme drawn up by the Association. It was pointed out that this was not a form of relief which Government had ever adopted before, or, which they were prepared to consider in this case. In all probability it would involve them in claims for purchases from middlemen-holders of coffee, not to mention other trades which suffer from the war. Further, it was emphasised that any difficulties that the trade might meet in selling their crop would be felt even more severely by Government. The latter had not found it possible to provide freight for private shipments of coffee on account of the prior claims of articles of national importance, and the fact that they were themselves the owners of the crop would not enable them to overlook these prior claims.

It was considered that the only possible way of meeting the difficulty would be by way of *taccavi* advances for which machinery already exists. The Association preferred, if this method of giving relief were adopted, that advances should be given on the security of the crop rather than on that of the Estates. Some Estates were already heavily mortgaged, and even in cases where they were not, there were objections to mortgaging the Estates which could not be urged against a mere hypothecation of the crop. Government would be in part secured against the risk of the crop being unsaleable by the fact that future crops as well as crops already harvested could be hypothecated. The deputation estimated that a figure between 20 and 25 lakhs, of which Mysore could be asked to bear a share, would probably represent the maximum total assistance that would be required. The representatives of the Association said that the latter could not undertake to guarantee the re-payment of advances but the District Associations concerned would be prepared to advise and give considered and responsible recommendations in individual cases. They would make enquiries and give an estimate of the output and generally of the solvency of each concern involved. This of course only had reference to concerns which were members of the Associations.

The question was also discussed as to what figure should be regarded as the maximum which Government would be prepared to advance against a specified quantity of coffee. It was admitted that at existing prices Government could not be expected to advance more than Rs. 450 per ton against a future crop but that Rs. 600 per ton might be advanced against crop already harvested.

The question of the interest to be charged was reserved, though it was made clear that Government would not raise the rate especially against coffee planters.

Sir George Barnes also undertook to enquire what could be done in in the way of providing wagons for the movement of coffee from the damp climate of the West Coast to Tuticorin or other drier places.

The deputation asked that whatever was decided in respect of financial assistance might be given immediate effect to.

(Signed) G. B. BARNES.

21—2—18.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Rubber Growers' Association.

(Incorporated.)

38, Eastcheap,
London, E. C. 3.
2nd January 1918.

Fletcher Norton, Esq.,
SECRETARY, R. G. A. Local Committee.
25 South Parade,
Bangalore.

Restriction of Output.

Dear Sir,—I have to inform you that at the request of this Association the following cable was despatched on 21st December by the Ceylon Association in London to the Agents Association in Colombo, with the suggestion that it should be communicated to the Planters' Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Planters' Association of Southern India :—

"At request of Rubber Growers we send following which was unanimously approved by their Council. Begins His Majesty's Government and Allies are insisting upon a minimum consumption of all seaborne commodities. At recent Inter Allied Conference in Paris imports maritime transports and supplies section decided to create an organisation with a view inter alia to restrict imports in order to release as much tonnage as possible for transport of American troops. Concrete effect of this decision has yet to be realised but Council feel strongly that it is urgent duty of Association to support Governments in their policy of releasing tonnage for conveyance of food and troops. It is felt that voluntary action now upon part of producers may avoid more drastic measures by Allied Governments and Council desire to impress upon members of Association and upon Rubber Growers in general urgent need of co-operative action. Unanimous decision of Council is that crop to be collected in year nineteen eighteen should be limited to eighty per cent of that collected in nineteen seventeen or in any previous year showing a greater yield method of effecting reduction to be settled individually by proprietors according to particular conditions of each estate. In order to meet case of young producers as well as estates giving a low average yield two hundred pounds per acre in bearing during nineteen eighteen is to be taken as standard yield below which no reduction will be required. You are requested to signify your assent to proposal by forthwith returning to Association attached form duly filled up and at same time instructing managers of your estates to give effect to reduction agreed upon ends form of assent to Council of Rubber Growers' Association Incorporated in compliance with circular letter from Council of Rubber Growers Association Incorporated dated twentieth December nineteen seventeen and subject to conditions stated therein I/we argee forthwith to reduce production of rubber for year nineteen eighteen to eighty per cent of my our production for nineteen seventeen or in any previous year showing a greater yield on understanding that this agreement shall cease to be binding if by first February nineteen eighteen I we have been notified in writing that less than half of Company members or Rubber Growers' Association have not similarly agreed. That Council of Association may by notice in writing authorise increase of total amount of crop to be produced. That I/we undertake to render to you as soon as

available the figure of my/our total production for nineteen seventeen or alternative earlier year and will render particulars of my/our production month by month during nineteen eighteen. For and on behalf of."

I enclose copy of the circular issued by the Association on 20th ulto., and will keep you advised as to what occurs.

It is of course too soon as yet to judge of the result of the Association's action.

Yours faithfully.

A. C. REED,
Acting Secretary.

38, Eastcheap, London, E. C.
20th December, 1917.

CIRCULAR TO ALL PRODUCERS OF PLANTATION RUBBER,

Dear Sir (s),—His Majesty's Government and Allies are insisting upon a minimum consumption of all seaborne commodities.

At the recent Inter-Allied Conference in Paris the Imports, Maritime Transports and Supplies Section decided to create an organization with a view (*inter alia*)—

> " to restrict imports in order to release as much tonnage as possible for the transport of American troops."

The concrete effect of this decision has yet to be realised, but the Council feel strongly that it is the urgent duty of the Association to support the Governments in their policy of releasing tonnage for the conveyance of food and troops. It is felt that voluntary action now upon the part of producers may avoid more drastic measures by the Allied Governments, and the wouncil desire to impress upon the Members of the Association and upon Rubber growers in general, the urgent need of co-operative action.

The unanimous decision of the Council is that the crop to be collected in the year 1918 should be limited to 80 per cent. of that collected in 1917, or in any previous year showing a greater yield, the method of effecting the reduction to be settled individually by proprietors according to the particular conditions of each Estate.

In order to meet the case of the young producers, as well as Estates giving a low average yield, 200 lbs. per acre in bearing 1918 is to be taken as the standard yield below which no reduction will be required.

You are requested to signify your assent to the proposal by forthwith returning to the Association the attached form duly filled up, and at the same time instructing the Managers of your Estates to give immediate effect to the reduction agreed upon.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. READ,
Acting Secretary.

FORM OF ASSENT.

To the Council of the RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED).

In compliance with the circular letter from the Council of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), dated 20th December, 1917, and subject to the conditions stated therein I We agree forthwith to reduce the

production of Rubber for the year 1918 to 80 per cent. of my/our production for 1917, or in any previous year showing a greater yield, on the understanding:—

1. That this agreement shall cease to be binding if by 1st February, 1918, I/We have been notified in writing that less than half of the Company Members of the Rubber Growers' Bssociation have not similarly agreed.

2. That the Council of the Association may, by notice in writing, authorise the increase of the total amount of crop to be produced.

3. That I/We undertake to render to you as soon as available the figure of my/our total production for 1917 (or the alternative earlier year), and will render particulars of my/our production month by month during 1918.

For and on behalf of.....

.....

.....

Terramia Estate,
Kullakamby, Nilgiris.
February 18th, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.
Bangalore.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Sir,—Mr. Malcolm in his most interesting letter asks, "Does the U. P. A. S. I. need re-organisation,"? and hopes that normal conditions will prevail when the War is over and that the work will not be as onerous then as it is now.

Many of our present troubles will of course gradually disappear, but others brought about by changes in Political conditions will arise and therefore it is necessary that we have the machinery ready to meet contingencies without the delay and indecision that so often occurs and must continue to occur under the present system.

As regards the proposed change of Headquarters to Madras, I agree that to remove the Head Office to the opposite side of India to that in which our interests lie is not sound, but is Cochin the solution?

Is not Coimbatore the better selection?

It is already the head-quarters of the Deputy Director of the Labour Department; Coffee Curing, Manure, and Shipping Firms are already represented there; while our Scientific Department should gain by the proximity of other Scientific Institutions.

Ootacamund is within easy reach so that close touch with the Heads of Government for 6 months in the year is possible.

The prospect of Madras with a "Commercial Adviser" sounds alluring, but are advantages to be gained in the way of advice in Madras that cannot be gained elsewhere?

Personally I am of the opinion that our interests would be better safeguarded by the appointment of a "full time" Chairman, who is a Planter as suggested by Mr. Malcolm, than by a "Commercial Adviser."

Mr. Malcolm supports the Labour Department, but would make it a side show, controlled by the U. P. A. S. I.

Why is Labour relegated to a subsidnary position ?

Surely it is the Life-blood of the Industry itself.

Would there be any U. P. A. S. I. if we had no Labour ?

What use would a Scientific Department be if we had no Labour to carry out their suggestions ?

Even as it is the Scientific Department is handicapped by Labour shortage, as reference to Books of Proceedings of the Bangalore Meetings will prove.

How many times has Mr Anstead's advice been turned down as unpracticable owing to want of Labour, even when it has been definitely shown that to follow same would be profitable ? Yet Labour is to be a side-show only ! ! !

To re-organise the U. P. A. S. I. without making the Labour Department an integral part seems to me on a par with rebuilding a house without considering the Foundations.

Mr Aird's letter bears out what I have been "preaching" for the last few months, that the Coffee Planter is in danger of losing his Labour to Tea and Rubber concerns, but I disagree with him that the Labour Department will not be able to help.

The opening out of new Agencies has not been a success so far, but are we going to let matters stand as they are ?

If so, the sooner the Coffee Planter takes Sir Fairless Barber's advice to "cut losses and quit" the better.

He cannot compete in a wage war, therefore unless the supply is increased he must go under. Can he run a Labour Recruiting Agency alone ? Hardly, if he can barely afford Rs. 1-4 per acre suggested by the Anamallais. so he has no option but to support the U.P.A.S.I. Department for all he is worth, and to demand that the opening of new Agencies be pushed with all possible energy.

It is his only chance. and when one considers that the Anamallai Association proposed to tax Tea and Rubber at a considerably higher rate than Coffee, although both products can at present afford to smash Coffee utterly, it would seem that there is evidence that " unity of interests between Tea " Planters and those engaged in Coffee where securing of Labour is " concerned " distinctly exists, and it is up to the Coffee man to gratefully accept the proffered co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

A. S. DANDISON.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—It is with reluctance that I again enter the arena of controversy, as I have hitherto been under the impression, and so have many others, that nothing definite would be decided regarding the re-organisation question till we all gathered again at the next Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. But there is now an uneasy feeling abroad that we are being

rushed, and that resolutions may be brought up and passed by a few, before all preliminaries have been fully discussed, and before planters generally are in a position to give well-informed opinions. Further it is regrettable that a planters' controversy is being extended to the public press, when we have our own recognised official organ *the Planters' Chronicle* available for such purposes; and when in the present stage, what may be called our domestic affairs should be guarded against outside influences, not always in entire accord with our interests. More time is required for a full and thorough understanding of the many problems before us, and it would be disastrous if at this stage hasty decisions were arrived at, landing us in a position from which there may be no returning. It is not only our present condition that is to be considered, but a long view must be taken of the future position and prospects of private estates and companies, if the U. P. A. S. I., as advocated by some, is ever run on commercial lines.

A suggestion has lately been thrown out to hold a general meeting of planters and merchants in Madras early in April. Such a meeting appears altogether premature, as before we ask others to influence our opinions, we planters should first know our own mind as to what we require, and what is necessary to make the U. P. A. S. I. an efficient organisation. There is no general unanimity among us at present as regards, for instance, the Labour Department, the Secretarial staff, and Executive Committee, the location of the U. P. A. S. I. headquarters, the close touch with Government, and the necessity if any of intimate commercial association. When these important points are fully discussed and definitely settled by planters from a solely planters' point of view, then only should outside opinion be invited, if necessary. Under existing conditions the proposed Madras Meeting is felt to be a bit "too previous," as it is likely to tie our hands and place us in subordination to commercial influences. Planters everywhere are known to be an independent and an all-round practical body of men, and there is something humiliating in the suggestion that they are in this instance hopelessly incompetent to manage their own affairs, and that it is necessary to beg the help of non-planters to straighten things out for them. "Hands off" to all should be our motto, till we have settled our own affairs in accordance with our own interests. We should also here remember one of the elementary lessons of political economy, *viz.*, that the producer should always endeavour to eliminate the middleman, and place himself in direct touch with the consumer. The Madras proposal on the contrary, would place the producing planter wholly in the hands of the middleman or merchant! The latter however sympathetic he may be, would from a business point of view be wanting in acumen if he did not turn the situation to his own advantage. It would be the unfortunate planter who would be left to deplore his diminished prestige.

Lest it should be inferred that I am against all connection with the commercial community, let it be clearly understood that such is neither my opinion nor my wish. What I maintain is that the U. P. A. S. I. should be independent and essentially a planters' organisation, worked *by planters for planters*, and no outside influence should be allowed to meddle or interfere in carrying out this policy. But this does not mean that we should not consult and accept the advice of the commercial community on special occasions. This object could be effectually attained by electing as Honorary Councillors a limited number of those commercial men both from the East and West Coasts, who happen to have a direct interest in the planting industry. Further, after the U. P. A. S. I. has been suitably located in some planting district, the Annual General Meeting, and even other Meetings, might well be held from time to time in various business centres, Madras

included—thus securing a proper consideration of all special and local interests. This, as it will be noted, is quite a different proposition from the one that is now being pushed with such unseemly haste, *viz.*, that the U. P. A. S. I. should be definitely located in Madras, with "a permanent Commercial Adviser," which is tantamount to handing over our whole organisation to the middleman! An Executive Committee composed entirely of planters is absolutely essential if we are to maintain our control over the purse and policy of the Association; but how can we expect the Members of such a Committee to effectually carry out their duties if they are scattered all over Southern India hundreds of miles away from the institution that will require their constant supervision and guidance? What is then the logical conclusion? Namely this, that in Madras we shall have the U. P. A. S. I. in an entirely commercial atmosphere and environment, managed by a practically independent Secretary and Commercial Adviser, and without doubt soon also a Commercial Executive Committee! Under such conditions, it may pertinently be asked how long can we expect the U. P. A. S. I. to remain a planters' institution? In the nature of things it is bound rapidly to become wholly commercialised both in organisation and policy; and it is not likely then to concern itself very enthusiastically over purely planting interests. Those who think otherwise, are certainly very innocent of the varied meanings of the word "business." Commercial men are not in India for philanthropic purposes, and they would be ignoring their own interests if they did not eventually exploit the whole planting industry through the planting organisation placed so confidingly and opportunely in their hands.

It is absurd to suppose that after the war things will ever return to the original conditions prevailing before 1914. Certainly the U. P. A. S. I. can never again be run as in the days of old. We must therefore re-arrange our affairs, not only to meet present altered conditions, but also probably greater difficulties in the near future. How all this is to be done is our real problem. The two main questions requiring solution are the Labour Department and the internal efficiency of the U. P. A. S. I. The former question can only be solved by the planters themselves, who must unselfishly put aside minor personal issues and jointly work for the greater good of the whole industry. In this matter the mercantile community cannot possibly help us, while Government probably can. As regards the second question, it will be remembered that the defects and inadequacy of existing arrangements only became patent when the U. P. A. S. I. was suddenly called upon to cope with the altered conditions produced by the war. Though we all admire and loyally acknowledge the hard and even brilliant work put in at this time by our Planting Member, Chairman, Councillors, and Secretary, it was too much to expect, handicapped as they were, that they could fully meet all the exigencies of a wholly changed situation. How could they? with a Secretary and inadequate staff in one place, and all the others scattered scores of miles apart in various other directions, with hardly ever an opportunity of meeting for discussion and concerted action. I have been Chairman of one Planters' Association and Honorary Secretary of two others, and the Secretary of a Chamber of Commerce, a Millowners Association, and a Cotton Trade Association, and also Honorary Secretary of a few other minor bodies; and I think I can say that I am speaking with some real inside knowledge and experience of such institutions, when I state that no Association such as the U. P. A. S. I. can be efficiently worked without an Assistant to the Secretary, and without, what is *the essential factor*, an Executive Committee of *planters on the spot*, who can meet often on fixed dates to discuss current matters, make minutes, and pass

resolutions, on which the Secretary can base his communications and instructions to the Affiliated Associations and others. Thus only can confusion, waste of time, and voluminous cross-correspondence, be avoided; and thus only will the members be served with useful well-digested information which can be understood and applied at once. Such decisions, often of a momentous nature, cannot be left to a Secretary or any single man: they must be the result of the consensus of opinion and concerted action of a well-informed committee, having the confidence of the planting community.

The proposal to move the U. P. A. S. I. to Madras does not appear to possess a single redeeming feature. "High Finance," and "Commercial Association," are dangled before us as universal panaceas for all our ills, like the blessed word Mesopotamia, which soothed a certain mythical old lady in all her mental perturbations. If such words mean anything they mean that on special occasions we might possibly require special expert advice, but such unusual occasions surely do not connote the effacement of the planter, and the handing over of his organisation to the commercial community of Madras. The following are some of the salient points regarding the Madras move that have occurred to others besides myself:

(*a*) When funds are scarce, all business disorganised, and rents and living abnormally high, is it wise to plan an expensive move from Bangalore to Madras, where the expenditure will be still greater? Anyhow why move now? Why put the move first and the re-organisation after?

(*b*) If however a move is a necessity, then it should be made to a suitable climate with greater available energy, where we can get our money's worth from the Executive Committee and Secretarial staff. Nobody in these days has the temerity to maintain that the enervating heat of Madras is conducive to greater physical exertion and a more vigorous mentality, than the cooler atmosphere of the hills. We should always bear in mind the sensible maxim, *mens sana in corpore sano.*

(*c*) We are all agreed that it is very desirable that the U. P. A. S. I. should always be in close touch with the Government of the Presidency. Happily it is not now necessary to labour this point, as even the Madras—move faction have admitted that Ooty is far more favourable for the attainment of this end than Madras.

(*d*) If the U. P. A. S. I. is located in Madras, how is it to be conveniently and practically managed by an Executive Committee composed of planters, who are non-existent anywhere on that side of the peninsula. The Committee must meet frequently and regularly—not one, or two or three times a year as some fondly imagine sufficient—but weekly, or at least fortnightly, if any good purpose is to be served. Who is to pay the expenses of these many long-distance visits? Certainly not the Committee Members themselves, and can the U. P. A. S. I. afford to do it? If it tried, it could justly be accused of an unbusinesslike waste of money, which could be avoided altogether by having the U. P. A. S. I. more conveniently situated. Further, even if the expenses could be paid, can it seriously be supposed that busy planters in comfortable homes, will always be willing continuously to perform these lengthy and trying journeys at all times of the year, just to fulfil the prophets and show that Madras is the only place for their Association? It is more than doubtful, indeed it is a certainty, that not even a quorum will assemble after the first novelty of these visits has worn off.

The whole question of the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. can be boiled down to just two propositions. Firstly, do the planters of Southern India wish to retain their freedom of action and maintain an Association of their own; or secondly, do they consider that their interest will best be served by allowing their organisation to be commercialised and run by

others, whose business aims and objects may not alway be identical with their own ? Such are the momentous issues, so let us ponder lest some hasty or thoughtless action should lead to the writing of "Ichabod" over the portals of the U. P. A. S. I.

J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS.

Ootacamund,
25th February, 1918.

Labour Department.

Westward Ho !
High Ground,
Bangalore.
S. India.
19th February, 1918.

No. 207.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir, —In reply to some points in Mr. Malcom's letter published in your issue of the 9th inst., I offer a few remarks.

Mr. Lake's Resolution was considered by the Control Committee the day after the U. P. A. S. I. General Meeting closed. It was found impossible to alter the current year's estimates. One attempt to secure Mr. Lake's presence at a meeting with Mr. Waddington and myself having failed, a meeting with him has been arranged for next month, the exact date to suit his convenience. The result of this conference, with the Estimate for next year, and the expenditure for the lst half of the current year will be considered at a meeting of the Control Committee on the 13th April, at the same time the whole question of the future will be gone into. Correspondence has passed between members of the Committee in which proposals have been made some of which have been made public. No definite decision has been arrived at. The reason why nothing has so far been published on my part is that I am reluctant to adopt a "*Non-Possumus*" attitude, and I think it premature to put half baked proposals on paper. In my opinion subscribers of the present Department must have an opportunity of discussing any definite proposals that are made, before putting them before non-subscribers.

Mr. Malcolm has made a definite charge against me that accounts which were promised have not so far been forthcoming. They were forthcoming on the 4th September, 1917. Subscribers have only themselves to blame for not receiving them. See page 85 of the last Book of Proceedings, "*That the Labour Director's Annual Report and detailed copy of accounts showing the amount spent in each division and the area served by each be sent to one subscriber to be elected by the Planters' Association of his district and that a copy of yearly estimates etc. also be made available*" See also the *Planters' Chronicle* of 20th October 1917, page 534 Mr. Congreve's report to the Anamallay Planters' Association. *A copy of last year's accounts and the estimate for the current year have been received and are at your disposal.*"

So far as Mr. Malcolm's Association is concerned I have now usurped its prerogative, and have selected Mr. Malcolm as the Recipient, to whom I have this week sent the papers.

Yours faithfully,
AYLMER FF. MARTIN.
Director.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Some weeks ago I noticed a suggestion of Mr. Mead's that a scale of charges should be instituted for work done by the Labour Department. Could not this suggustion be adopted, and, at the same time Estates be asked to guarantee the expenses of the Department by subscription on an acreage basis as before ? At the end of each year, subcribers would only be asked to pay the difference between the income from the scale of charges and the fixed subscription. There is no doubt that a section of opinion while admitting, and being willing to pay for, the benefit derived from the Department in the abstract, would like to see those who received practical assistance pay extra and I think Mr. Mead's suggestion would effect this. It is obvious that the more the Department's assistance was in demand the less would be the annual subscription.

Yours faithfully,
RUBBER.

19th February, 1918.

The English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies,
(Incorporated in England)
Murugalli Estate,
Valparai P. O.,
S. India,
21st February, 1918.

To
THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I shall thank you to publish the following in reply to the letter that Mr. Mahon has sent you as written by me to one of his Maistries and published by you in the *Chronicle* of the 16th instant. The Maistry Bapoo named in it had worked under me in Coorg for about 9 years. When he came to me first, he was only a small sawyer, working with small advances and when I found him trust-worthy I gradually increased his advances until he became a useful labour supplier. Last September he came up to this Estate and said that he was dissatisfied with his employment in Coorg and requested me to give him work here. I informed him then, that unless he came to me after having paid all his debt off, I would have nothing to do with him at the same time he brought me a message from Bettian Maistry alluded to, to whom the letter you publish I wrote, in which also, you can see that I re-iterated, that I could not take him on unless he was free to come after paying off his advances, both of the above men informed me that they intended paying off their advances and going elsewhere, even if I did not take them on. This Estate requiring labour, I naturally did not wish them to seek work elsewhere and promised to take them on, if they came with a clear sheet, there was no intention on my part of crimping Mr. Mahon's maistries as his sending a copy of my letter to you for publication would seem to imply.

Yours faithfully.
JOHN D. BREWER.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No, 6299 T.C.

From
Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To
The Secretary,
Calcutta Liners Conference.

Dated the 22nd/23rd February, 1918.

Sir,—I have the honour to refer you to the Minutes of Meeting of my Advisory and Export Committee held on the 2nd instant in connection with the measures to be taken for the prevention of damage to tea chests.

Particulars of the recommendations made at this Meeting were cabled to the Food Controller who has replied as follows :—

"Number twenty-six. Your 58 consider steamer company should "give clean Bill Lading for properly repaired chests but fear "you must reject chests for which steamer company will not "give clean bill."

A further Meeting of my Advisory Committee was held to-day to consider the steps necessary to give effect to the Food Controller's instructions quoted above, when the following recommendations were made :—

(1) The steamers now loading to be completed in accordance with the arrangement specified in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee held on the 2nd February.

(2) Commencing with the S.S. "ITRIA" all teas tendered for shipment will be inspected by one of my Experts in company with a representative of the Steamer Company who shall jointly decide :—

(*a*) What chests are fit for shipment.

(*b*) What chests are to be shipped after being thoroughly repaired.

(*c*) What chests are to be shipped after being gunny-packed.

(*d*) What chests are to be rejected and repacked before shipment.

(3) Shippers are to be advised that no chests must be gunny-packed until they have been examined and passed by my Expert in consultation with the Steamer Company's representative.

(4) No teas are to be shipped unless the Steamer Company is prepared to grant a clean Bill of Lading for them and the decision arrived at by my Expert in consultation with the Steamer Co's representative shall be final.

You will observe the precedure suggested above differs from the previous arrangement in-as-much as no qualified Bills of Lading are to be accepted, whereas chests which had been gunny-packed were previously allowed to be shipped under a qualified receipt.

My Committee consider that as all packages will in future be examined by an Expert and the Steamer Co's representative who will decide whether or not they are fit for shipment, the fact that Shippers may be called upon to gunny-pack certain consignments with a view to strengthening the packages, does not warrant the Bill of Lading for same being qualified, but there is no objection to the Steamer Company mentioning on the Bill of Lading particulars of the chests which have been gunny-packed.

I shall be glad if you will kindly let me know at an early date whether the arrangements now proposed, meet with the acceptance of the Liners Conference.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) R. MILLER,

For Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 6300-6326 T.C., dated the 23rd February, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association.

R. MILLER,

For Tea Commissioner for India.

Colombian Coffee.

A PROPAGANDA SCHEME FOR BETTER MARKETING.

It is not generally realised (says "The British and Latin American Trade Gazette") that Colombia is the second largest coffee exporting country in Latin America. Brazil heads the list with yearly exports of between 12,000,000 and 14,000 000 bags. Colombian exports do not exceed some 1,200,000 bags. Colombian plantations, however, are on the increase, and the quality of Colombian product is distinctly superior to that of Brazil. On the other hand, the steady, though slow, development of internal means of communication in Colombia, the gradual extension of its railway mileage, together with the improvement of overland routes and river steamboat services, render every day accessible new areas of coffee growing lands, and by reducing the cost freight give fresh impetus to the coffee industry all round.

The dislocation of markets and shortage of ocean transport brought about by the war have dealt the Colombian coffee industry a severe blow, and the Colombian people are seriously questioning the wisdom of concentrating, as heretofore, upon coffee as the sole or main export line of the country. In spite of the temporary set-back which the industry has suffered, one can safely predict, however, that coffee will retain its pride of place among the products of Colombia and that the resumption of normal or somewhat normal trade conditions after the war will be marked, so far as Colombian coffees are concerned, by a renewal of activity of Planters and exporters, and a sustained advance of statistical figures.

Mis-Labelled Stock.

In London, as well as in New York (where the bulk probably of the Colombian crop is disposed of). one can see at grocers' shops a certain number of glass or earthenware jars filled with coffee and labelled "Java" 'Mocha" "Mysore" "Costa Rica," etc., and sometimes a large window arranged as a show-case with the several coffees in carefully stratified layers and with the same labels, stating the supposed or true extraction of the grain, however. The "Colombian" label or mark of origin however, is nowhere to be seen, although, as may be surmised, Colombian coffee is often retailed under one or another of those labels. This state of affairs is far from satisfactory to the Colombian, whose fortunes are at stake in this matter, and an interesting movement is on foot in the country to 'ensure' that its coffee shall receive more general and explicit recognition.

The movement originates in Manizales, the capital of the Department of Caldas, one of the richest and most progressive sections of Colombia, and itself a thriving and wide-awake city, perched on the abrupt heights of the Central Andes, on the western slopes of the Volcano off Ruiz. Coffee cultiation and export is but one of the many important branches of activity in Caldas, and the future in store for this and other industries of that section may be gauged when it is realised that, prohibitively rugged and hopelessly out-of-the-way as it looks on the map, Caldas occupies a favoured situation with regard to communications.

A Propaganda Scheme.

Briefly the proposal of the Manizales Chamber of Commerce aims at opening up fresh outlets for Colombian coffee in countries and markets where it is unknown, and promoting and stimulating its use in places where it is already in demand. To secure this object the Manizales Chamber proposes the levying of a contribution, to be made legally compulsory, if necessary, on coffee exports. A quota of 0·10 dollar (about 5*d*.) per arroba (12½ kilogrammes) is suggested as an equitable figure.

The proceeds of this contribution are to be handed to a committee of coffee planters and exporters, with authority to apply the funds thus raised to the purposes in view. The organisation of an incorporated association, of which all coffee growers and exporters would be members, is also recommended by the Chamber, with a view to ensuring the direct and more efficient control of the funds by the contributors.

The plan has been worked out in detail, and it is estimated that the suggested contribution would yield over £100,000 annually, a sum which, as the authors of the proposal point out, ought to enable the committee to carry out a world campaign of propaganda, and incidentally many a useful reform or arrangement favourable to the coffee industry in the country itself.

The proposal has met, so far, with the approval of the more progressive and farsighted members of the business community, and will no doubt shortly come before congress for the sanction of that body and to obtain authority to levy the proposed contribution. A certain amount of active and passive resistance may be anticipated among the more conservative planters and exporters who are satisfied that they are doing well enough and do not care for innovations or departures, and also among the countrified type of farmer and planter on a small scale, who usually sells his crop to the exporter and listens with reluctance to the words "taxation" and "contribution," regardless of their origin and purport.—*The Financier, January 4, 1918.*

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Scientific Department continues its article on the Use and Value of Local Fertilisers.

We publish the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South Travancore Planters' Association, those of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Travancore Combined Planters' Association and those of the Anamalai Planters' Association. With regard to the Chairman's remarks on assistance for coffee planters, we are divulging no secret when we say that the Government of India have placed 10 lakhs of Rupees at the disposal of the Madras Government to assist the coffee planters of Coorg and British India with taccavi loans.

The matter is under correspondence between the Hon'ble Mr. Cobb, British Resident in Mysore and the Government of Madras. The Coffee Planters of Mysore will be helped by the Mysore Government who have the matter under active consideration.

That a further contract for 25 million pounds of tea from India has been placed by the Food Controller will we hope greatly help our South Indian Industry.

We commend Mr. Tipping's letter and enclosures to all Coffee Planters.

At the request of the Honorary Secretary South Mysore Planters' Association, we publish a letter to him from the Planting Member.

An extract from Mr. Knight's letter to the Secretary on the formation of the South Indian Planting Association at home is given. Nothing further has yet come to hand.

Mr. Tipping contributes a letter on the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and Mr. Macrae will be obliged for answers to his query about Lime.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged ...	...	Rs.	69,337	6 7
Mr. Campbell Hunt ...	...	Rs.	30	0 0
Mr. A. J. Wright ...	...	Rs.	20	0 0
Mrs. Ada Cameron (Bridge Winnings)	...	Rs.	17	0 0
Mr. J. J. Murphy ...	...	Rs,	100	0 0
Mr. Stephen Bayly ...	...	Rs.	10	0 0
	Total	Rs.	69,514	6 7

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

The Use and Value of Local Fertiliser.

(Continued.)

Another material available in fairly large quantities and extensively bought is Sheep Manure. In the form in which it is delivered on the estates it is very dry and dusty and quite obviously full of dirt and foreign matter. The following are some analyses I have made of different samples. The first was made in 1911 from material in the Bababudins and the second and third were made recently from South Mysore material.

——	A.	B.	C.
*Loss on Ignition	56·83	52·15	55·55
†Soluble Ash	16·01	10·43	10·49
Insoluble matter	27·16	37·42	33·96
	100·00	100·00	100·00
*Containing Nitrogen	1·25	1·96	1·61
†Containing Phosphoric Acid ...	...	0·72	...

It will be seen from these analyses that the material always contains large quantities of sand and useless material and that it contains less than 2% of Nitrogen as a rule. In this case, as with poonac, its sole manurial value lies in its Nitrogen content. Its Phosphoric Acid content is about 1% the same as that of a poonac, and its Potash content is seldom more than 2% if as much. It may therefore be compared as to price and manurial value with a poonac. The price paid for it appears to vary a good deal in different districts, from Rs. 17 per ton in the case of Sample B above to Rs.20/12 per ton in sample C. Now let us compare these samples with Ground Nut Poonac which, since writing the first part of this article, I have ascertained can be delivered in bags at Kadur Railway Station at Rs. 80 per ton analysing 8% Nitrogen.

1 ton of sample B is equivalent to 549 lbs. of Ground Nut Poonac costing Rs. 19/10 plus transport (say at Rs. 17 per ton) Rs. 4/3 a total of Rs. 23/13.

1 ton of sample C is equavalent to 451 lbs. of Ground Nut Poonac costing Rs. 16/2 plus transport say Rs. 3/7 a total of Rs. 19/9.

In the latter case the Sheep Manure is evidently not worth buying at the price as Ground Nut Poonac is cheaper.

In the first case it is worth its value. Consequently the question whether this material is worth buying locally depends on its Nitrogen content and when this drops as low as 1.25% as in the case of sample A it is not worth the money paid for it.

A third material examined was village manure consisting of cattle manure and general refuse. Analyses made of this class of material showed the following composition :—

	A	B
Moisture	11·84	20·68
*Organic Matter	60·58	20·92
†Soluble Ash	8·54	9.22
Insoluble Matter	19.04	49·18
	100·00	100·00
*Containing Nitrogen	0·84	0·84
†Containing Phosphoric Acid	...	0·40

The material from which sample B was taken cost delivered on the estate Rs. 2 per ton. At this cheap rate it is probably worth buying and applying.

The gist of all this is that the price of local fertilisers and their Nitrogen content should be carefully watched and compared with the cost of high grade fertilisers like Ground Nut Poonac and Fish Guano. When these latter are cheap unless the price of the local material also falls a better value for money expended is to be obtained from the former. In fact the price of the local fertilisers should be strictly regulated by the price of the high grade material.

Planters are apt to justify expenditure on local fertilisers by saying they have " noticed a good effect from it " forgetting that they have no control side by side with it to measure this effect. An effect is produced by the cultivation alone necessary in applying the fertiliser and often a better effect for money expended would be obtained by using high grade fertilisers instead of locally purchased poonacs, sheep manure, bratties, village pit manure and the like which are always low in Nitrogen content and highly adulterated.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Travancore Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Quilon Club, on Saturday, February 2nd, 1918, at 10 a.m.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Cook (Chairman), Stewart, C. Hall, Macdonald, Gray, Knight and Stainforth. *By Proxy*—Messrs. Moore, Ross, Branson and White. *Visitors.*—Messrs. Lord, Chatfield and Gwynne.

Before beginning the business of the meeting the Chairman referred to the death of two members since the last gathering, Mr. Chas. Brander who was killed on his estate and Lieut. J. H. D. Cook of the Gurkas, first wounded in Gallipoli and now killed in Mesopotamia. A vote of sympathy with their relatives was passed in silence, members standing.

Notice calling the meeting having been read, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The correspondence having been read the Chairman addressed the meeting as follows:—Gentlemen, I regret this is such a small meeting and that our Honorary Secretary is not present but he and other of our members have been called away to attend camp in Madras. I do not propose to make a speech, as you all know the difficulties we have to contend with in the Planting Industry. I will, however, refer to one serious problem before us, namely the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. This is a matter that requires your serious consideration and it is up to those members who may have labour or other troubles to put their views before the meeting. I would also point out that our delegate to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly has not received the promised information in reference to the subject of roads which he is to bring forward and I shall be glad if the members interested will provide him with all the information they can. I will now read the Honorary Secretary's Report. "The acreage subscribing to the Association for the past year was 14435.25 acres, an increase of 675 acres over the previous year. From returns received by me from Estates the figures will be further increased to about 14726 acres. Much however will depend on the attitude of members towards the proposed re-organisation scheme of the U. P. A. S. I. of which so much has been heard during the past few months and which will shortly come before you for consideration. The acreages and crops returned by members are as follows:—Tea—in bearing, 4694 acres, not in bearing, 406 acres, Yield 1943715 lbs. Rubber—in bearing, 7512 acres, not in bearing, 1809 acres, Yield 1869705 lbs. The accounts which have been kindly audited by Mr. Henderson to whom the thanks of the Association are due show Receipts from all sources Rs 2,763/8/11, Expenditure Rs.2,707/10/0—leaving a credit balance of Rs. 55/14/11 which added to last year's credit of Rs. 673/12/1 makes a total of Rs. 729/11/0 now in the hands of Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield, Ltd. As will be seen by the Statement of Accounts, besides the usual subscription of 2 as. per subscribing acre to the U. P. A. S. I. a sum of Rs. 400 was voted to our delegates at the Bangalore Meeting in August and Rs. 100 to the Lady Amothill Nursing Institute in Madras. In tendering my resignation of office as Secretary, I desire to thank members for their assistance in promptly giving me any returns asked for. I regret my inability to be present at the Annual General Meeting but I have been called away to Madras for military duty."

The Statement of Accounts was then examined and passed.

The subject of the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. was then gone into and after discussion it was resolved on the motion of Messrs. Stewart and Hall:—"That owing to the absence of so many members, the correspondence regarding the suggested re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. be circulated to all members so that they may consult their Directors and Proprietors and be in a position to give their views at a further meeting."

The Election of Office bearers for the year was then gone with and the Chairman having resigned Mr. Macdonald was voted to the Chair. The balloting resulted as follows: Chairman Mr. J. B. Cook; Hon. Secretary Mr. R. J. A. Moore; Committee Messrs Ross, Stewart and Gray.

Mr. Cook having resumed the Chair said:—Gentlemen, I suppose I must thank you for the honour, but as I have often pointed out the Chairman and Secretary should be in quick communication with each other, especially in these strenuous times, and I think a better selection could have been made of a man who is interested in both Tea and Rubber.

The meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) R. J. A. MOORE,
Honorary Secretary.

Travancore Combined Planters' Association.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of this Association was held at the Quilon Club on Saturday, the 16th February, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs A. J. Wright, Vice-Chairman, Kanan Devan Hills, Planters' Association; J. R. Vincent, Mundakayam Planters' Association; W. A. J. Milner, Central Travancore Planters' Association; J. Mackie, representing Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., and L. A. Lampard, Honorary Secretary. *Visitor.*—Mr. E. Lord.

Notice calling the Meeting was read and the Agenda was as follows:—

Minutes of last Meeting.
Honorary Secretary's Report and Submission of Accounts.
Chairman's address.
Election of Office Bearers for 1918.
Correspondence.
Mycologist for Rubber.
Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.
Any other business properly brought forward for the consideration of the Meeting.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Richardson, the Chairman of the Association, Mr. A. J. Wright, the Vice-Chairman, took the chair.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read, approved and signed.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Gentlemen,—This constitutes the Fourth Annual Meeting of this Association, the membership of which remains unchanged at 11, of which 5 are Planters' Associations and the remaining 6 Mercantile Firms.

The Accounts for 1917 as submitted to this Meeting show a credit balance of Rs 547-15-1 which includes the sum of Rs. 294-12-7 brought forward from the previous year. The cost of running the Association has been very small and as there seemed no immediate prospect of requiring

the funds at the disposal of this Association, Rs. 500 were placed on Deposit account in October last. The Committee wish to thank Mr. Henderson for kindly auditing the Accounts.

During 1917 this Association has had very little to do as the troubles and requirements of Travancore Planters have been identical with those of the whole of the Planting community of S. India and as such have called for the attention of a body more generally representative of the whole of S. India. Such purely Travancore matters as the Double Tea Duty and Timber Values were settled in 1916. Its activities, therefore, have been confined to the sending out of circulars of interest to Travancore Planters in particular.

I regret that your Chairman has, through pressure of work, been unable to be present here to-day.

This, Gentlemen, completes my report and I beg to tender my resignation.

The Accounts for year ending 31st December, 1917 were passed.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—It devolves upon me to preside at this meeting to-day in the absence of our Chairman, Mr. J. A. Richardson. We all regret his inability to be present from causes which alter so many of our plans and arrangements in these days. So many of his men are absent from their Estates on military duty that he has been unable to leave them too.

You will have noted from the Honorary Secretary's report which has just been read that the activities of the Association during the past year have been chiefly conspicuous by their absence. Far from being a reproach this may be looked upon as a matter for congratulation in that we have been able to avoid controversy when energies have been so badly needed in other directions. Matters have no doubt cropped up which would have had attention, under other conditions, but, which have been allowed to rest for the present.

Recent events in the political arena in India have proved to the hilt the advantage of having organisations ready to meet any emergency. The European Association has amply justified its existence during the past few months though many doubted its utility before and the day may easily come when we shall be thankful that we have the organisation of the Travancore Combined Planters' Association at our disposal. A crisis is almost invariably sudden and consequently it is usually too late to prepare to meet it when it has arisen. We want to be ready beforehand and in that light I look upon this Association under present circumstances.

The planting community has experienced a trying year and we should be happy if we could honestly feel that brighter things were in store in the immediate future but it is to be feared that the reverse is the case. However, in common with so many others, planters seem to be learning the great lesson of the advantages of unity and to be applying it with their accustomed energy to matters that crop up in their province. It is by no means easy to sink the individual needs and wishes in those of the community and for its general good. A great deal of this spirit will be called for in connection with one of the subjects on to-day's agenda—the proposed re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. which will be before you for discussion during this meeting. Let us hope that it will be viewed and dealt with broad-mindedly throughout Southern India and accorded that unanimous support necessary to ensure its success.

In conclusion I should like to thank our Honorary Secretary for the work he has so readily put through for the Association during the past year and will ask you to show your appreciation of it by according him a very hearty vote of thanks.

The election of Office Bearers for the ensuing year was proceeded with and Mr. A. J. Wright was elected Chairman, Mr. J. R. Vincent, Vice-Chairman and Mr. L. A. Lampard, Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.—The Honorary Secretary read the letter dated 14th February 1917 received from the Chief Secretary to Government stating that His Highness' Government had resolved to contribute Rs. 3,000 per annum to the re-organised Scientific Department of the Madras Government and was instructed to tender this Association's thanks for the donation.

MYCOLOGIST.—Mr. J. R. Vincent laid before the meeting the Mundakayam Planters' Association's Scheme for a Mycologist for Rubber and explained that if other Districts would not support it, Mundakayam were resolved to proceed with the Scheme themselves. The proposal had been submitted to the Government of Madras who had received it favourably and the whole Scheme had gone to the Secretary of State for Sanction. Mr. Vincent informed the meeting he was bringing up this subject at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and moved the following :—

"That this Association do support the Mundakayam Planters' Association Scheme for a Rubber Mycologist and do request the Government of Travancore to give financial help."

Mr. A. J. Wright supported the Resolution which was carried.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I. This subject led to a lengthy and interesting discussion. Opinion as to whether an "all-in" subscription was preferable to keeping the Labour and Scientific Departments outside the General Scheme appeared to be divided but it was resolved to recommend to the Members of this Association that the Head Quarters of the U. P. A. S. I. be transferred to Madras.

The question of incorporation of District Associations was discussed and it was resolved to recommend the matter to the Planters' Association Members for their consideration.

The Sri Mulam Subjects that were to be brought up by the Delegates were discussed and representatives agreed to support one another.

The Meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

TRAVANCORE COMBINED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

	Rs.	*a.*	*p.*		*Rs.*	*a.*	*p.*
Postages and Telegrams ...	4	5	0	Subscription 11 Members at Rs. 25 ...	275	0	0
Stationery and Printing ...	6	0	0				
Typist's salary ...	25	0	0	Interest ...	13	7	6
Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet ...	253	2	6				
Total Rs...	288	7	6	Total Rs...	288	7	6

BALANCE SHEET 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

Income and Expenditure account—		Cash with Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield, Limited—	
Balance at credit at 1st January, 1917	...294-12-7	On Deposit account	...500- 0-0
Add		On Current account	... 47-15-1
Excess of income over expenditure 1st January to 31st December, 1917	...253- 2-6		
	———547 15 1		———547 15 1

Examined with Books and Vouchers and found correct.

(Signed) J. L. HENDERSON.
Quilon, 13th February, 1918.

(Signed) L. A. LAMPARD,
Honorary Secretary.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association, held at the Club, at 10-30 a.m., on February 26th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. Hatton Robinson (Chairman), G. A. Marsh, B. M. Behr, John Carless, S. C. Biddell, C. Fraser, J. D. Brewer, E. W. Simcock, E. Hardy, H. O. Combe, S. Sladden, J. H. Ireland-Jones, J. E. Scott, J. E. Sampson, C. K. Pittock, D. Cooper, A. C. Cotton, and C. R. T. Congreve (Honorary Secretary). *Visitor.*—Mr. S. McGrath Mather.

The Chairman opened the meeting by reading the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held the day before.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on November 5th were confirmed.

The Honorary Secretary then read his Annual Report which was as follows :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I beg to lay before you my report for the past year.

MEMBERSHIP.—There are now 21 estates on the Association Register, and 19 subscribing Members.

MEETINGS.—There have been 5 General and 4 Committee Meetings held during the year under review, all of which have been well attended.

ACREAGE.—The total acreage subscribing to the Association is 15,282 acres.

CROPS.—The total crops harvested for the 12 months ending 30th June, 1917 are as follows :—

Tea	...	1,602,270 lbs.
Cardamoms	...	179,690½ ,,
Rubber	...	55,242 ,,
Cinchona	...	106,927 ,,
Coffee	...	487¼ tons,

ACCOUNTS.—These are now before you. They have been audited by Messrs Sladden and Scott. You will see that the balance in hand at the end of the official year amounted to Rs. 3,057-10-8.

ROADS.—A scheme for the future maintenance of the roads in this district was brought up by Mr. Marsh at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on November 5th, and was agreed to; and this proposal was sent to The Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber to place before Government, but, so far, no reply has been received.

RE-ORGANISATION OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT.—A copy of the Resolution passed at our Meeting, held on the November 5th, was circulated to all District Associations and the replies received are laid on the table.

PROHIBITION OF IMPORT OF FOREIGN TEAS.—As you will remember your Delegate at Bangalore brought forward a Resolution on this subject which was passed and put before Government by the U. P. A. S. I. Government however have refused our request, and as far as I know have assigned no adequate reason for doing so.

TOWNSHIP.—Little or nothing more has been done under this scheme. Government have granted the Association permission to build 2 bazaars, but so far no start has been made at their construction.

A Travellers' Bungalow and Roman Catholic Church are being built now, and it is hoped other necessary buildings will shortly be commenced.

MEDICAL.—Some months ago the Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Hospital in this District was given sick leave and the District Medical Officer advised us that no other man was available to take his place. Medical affairs are on the Agenda to-day and will I trust lead to some action being taken by the Association with reference to the way in which our large District is being neglected by Government.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.—After considerable agitation on our part, a new Post Master was appointed in July last, and since then I have received no complaints and believe the majority of the District are satisfied.

IN CONCLUSION, I have to thank you Mr. Chairman for the unfailing manner in which you have always come to my help when requested, and you Gentlemen for the way you have always answered all letters, etc, without delay.

I now beg to place my resignation in your hands.

Mr. Behr proposed a vote of thanks to the Honorary Secretary for his work during the past year, which was seconded by Mr. Fraser and passed unanimously.

Mr. Fraser moved the adoption of the accounts which being seconded by Mr. Pittock were passed.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL ADDRESS:—

Gentlemen,—You have heard Mr. Congreve's report on the matters of most importance which have come before us during the past season and as you have so frequently addressed, and heard, me during the past two years, in which I have had the honour of being your Chairman—I know you will be delighted when I inform you that I do not intend to "hearten" you to-day by giving you a voluminous address.

I regret the delay there has been in holding our Annual General Meeting this year, owing to the date on which the Meeting ought to be held clashing with the time arranged for the S. P. M. R. Camps in Madras, and by the absence of men from the district.

During the past season our Industry has passed through a very trying period, and the outlook is still gloomy and depressing.

The Tea season has been good, but, for planters of this product what at one time looked a very grave matter, has to a great extent been overcome by the new Government Tea Purchase Scheme.

Those of us who hold interests in Coffee and Cardamoms have been badly hit by being unable to ship these products, and by having to sell in a local market at less than half the price obtainable at Home.

We know that many of our old friends in the large Coffee planting districts, after seasons of poor crops, have had even greater difficulties to contend with, and I would here like to say that they have our greatest sympathy and best wishes for better fortune.

Sympathy is cold comfort to the man who has ruin staring him in the face, and we can but hope that Government will promptly come to the assistance of a splendid body of men who have always been loyal to the core, and from whose example and teaching so many younger men are to day making a name for themselves, either on the battlefield, or in the wild fields of our great planting industries.

I wish to express my sympathy with all concerned, in the loss of the Karamalai Factory. A large factory is not erected in this District without considerable cost and trouble.

ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.—Since I addressed you last year much has been done. It is, however, most unfortunate that the great scheme on which the District has set its heart is still very much in abeyance. I refer to the Extension of the Cochin Forest Tramway into the District.

I regret I am unable to give the Meeting any late information regarding this scheme. All I know is that it is still before the Madras Government and much depends on how that Government will favour it. The District eagerly awaits the decision of the Madras Government in this matter, for we are quite convinced that the Ghaut Road, with its Limitations, cannot possibly cope much longer with the traffic, which every year increases enormously.

In the event of the Forest Tramway Scheme not going through, this Association must immediately set about inquiring into other means by which the increasing traffic of the District will be alleviated.

As regards the District Roads, the Association recently decided to maintain these on an acreage basis chargeable to all Estates using particular roads.

Government was also to give a Grant-in-aid for this purpose.

All details for the upkeep and maintenance of the roads, that may be taken up by the Association, must be carefully gone into should this scheme mature.

I consider that the Association is to be heartily congratulated on its undertaking to do so much for the public good; and, one thing I hope that the decision it has come to will do, and this is, help people to realise that the cheap road is often in the end the bad road, and moreover, that a bad road rapidly deteriorates.

No subject should be of more universal interest to us all.

Our roads are the arteries of our Commercial life as well as the pathways of pleasure, and are honoured with the patronage of the weary in search of billets as well as by the God-blessed few, who periodically visit the District in their motor cars, and who are so pleased to see us, and we are them, I may add, when our "totes" are doing well and are in order,

MEDICAL.—I regret to say that the Government medical arrangements in the District have gone from bad to worse. At present they are disgraceful, and there has been much suffering amongst our subordinates and labour on account of the lack of proper medical assistance.

I appeal to all members of this Association to take strong measures and support some scheme whereby the medical arrangements of the District will shortly be put on a satisfactory footing.

THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—This important subject, as one would only expect, is now occupying a considerable amount of space within the press and in the *Planters' Chronicle*.

The Resolution passed by this Association, and sent to other Associations for their information and opinions thereon, was done more as a "feeler" than anything else.

This Association taking a very deep interest in the matter wanted to see how other Associations looked upon the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. This Association never expected that everybody would be in love with its proposal, which has met with much criticism as was only to be expected.

I quite agree with Mr. Richardson, and those other gentlemen holding the same opinion, that to settle anything which is likely to be agreeable to the Planting Community of Southern India, it is essential to hold a Conference at which the heads of the Planting Industry, Coast Firms and Banks will be fully represented.

This will concentrate discusssion and will achieve something definite. Lengthy discussions in the press, although excellent in their way as they bring to light individual points that might otherwise be lost sight of, will never bring about a satisfactory settlement.

Before closing this point in my address I know I am only voicing your sentiments by saying how fully we appreciate the vast amount of work got through, in these strenuous times, on behalf of the Planting Community generally, by the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., the Planting Member, and the other members of the Control Committee, to whom on yours and on my own behalf I now tender our hearty thanks.

Gentlemen, I have gone much further than I meant to do when I set out, but I will not delay you much longer.

In resigning the Chairmanship, I wish to thank you one and all for your forbearance with me in my short-comings, and for the kind way in which you have always taken my decisions.

I have often wished that I could have put greater ability at your service.

The Committee have always done any work put before it in a most willing way and have taken much worry off my shoulders. The best thanks of the Association are due to them.

I cannot speak too highly of the splendid way our Secretary, Mr. Congreve, has worked for us. He has kept us up to date with letters and circulars, and has got the work of the Association, which has very appreciably increased during the past year, absolutely up to date.

I very much appreciate Mr. Congreve's courtesy and kindness during the time we have been working together, and I appreciate it all the more when I remember that he stepped into the breach and took on the arduous work when Mr. Robb left the District, and when an Honorary Secretary was "wanting."

ROADS.—Mr. Carless asked whether any information had been received as to when the cart road through the township connecting up the Castlecroft and Monica roads was to be taken in hand. He said that if the new rates of cart hire in the district were adopted, it would make a very considerable difference to estates lying to the South West. No information was available.

The Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber asking whether anything had yet been decided with reference to the road scheme agreed to at the meeting in November.

The following Resolution proposed by Mr. Cotton and seconded respectively by Messrs. Jones and Carless were carried unanimously :—

(1) "That the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the District Board Engineer, Coimbatore, asking what steps if any he is taking to repair the main road between Coimbatore and Pollachi especially the first 12 miles from Coimbatore which are in a deplorable condition, and how soon he is going to take them."

(2). "That the Honorary Secretary convey to the Executive Engineer, D. P. W., Coimbatore, the Association's appreciation of the great improvements in the culverts, corners and surface of the ghaut road up to the 11th mile, and ask him to arrange to inspect all the main road above that point on his motor cycle as soon as possible in order to satisfy himself of its deplorable condition."

LIQUOR SHOPS.—There was considerable discussion on this subject. Mr. Behr said that he was against any further facilities being granted for the purchase of arrack in the district as he considered it would be a very evil day when arrack taverns were started in any shape or form. Mr. Simcock and Mr. Fraser agreed.

Mr. Scott said he thought the sooner the controlled sale of arrack was legitimized the better, as, at present, there were considerable illicit sales going on throughout the district.

The Chairman said that he had cases brought to his notice of other estate maistries going down to the Anally estate and taking that estate's coolies on to Perambukolam during the night to bring up arrack in large quantities.

Mr. Pittock then proposed the following Resolution which being seconded by Mr. Marsh, was put to the meeting but failed by 50 votes to secure the 75% majority of votes necessary under the Association Rules:

"That the Honorary Secretary be requested to address the Collector on the subject of Liquor Shops asking whether Estate Managers may be given yearly licenses to import liquor whenever they require it and whether such liquor may be made obtainable from Liquor Depots at wholesale prices."

The following amendment proposed by Mr. Fraser and seconded by Mr. Biddell was carried by 1210 votes to 329 :—

"That in the opinion of this Association—Government should not open public arrack taverns in the District, but if in some future date a supply of arrack is considered necessary the issue should be directly under the control of estate managers only.

TEA AND COFFEE EXPORTS, MARKETS ETC.—The Honorary Secretary gave all the information he had received to date on these subjects.

TOWNSHIP.—The present position was gone into and the Township Committee were asked to meet Executive Engineer when he visits the district to demarcate sites etc.

Mr. Pittock, President of the Club, requested that the hill immediately above the Club be left unplanted at present. Mr. Congreve, on behalf of the Castlecroft Estate, said that he would willingly do so, but asked the Club Committee to come to a decision regarding it at an early date, to enable the estate to do the necessary work before the monsoon set in, if it was decided to plant up the hill.

MEDICAL. Mr. Behr said the present position as regards the hospital was impossible. Lately he had a cooly whose hand was blown off, whom he sent up to the Hospital in charge of his own medical officer. As the Compounder at the Hospital was unable to perform the necessary operation his own man had to do it. and the Compounder said he could not even keep the cooly as an inpatient at the hospital.

Mr. Combe read some correspondence he had had with the Compounder with reference to a very bad case.

Messrs. Behr, Scott and Cotton said they had also correspondence showing the inadequate nature of the present hospital arrangements.

Mr. Pittock moved that copies of all this correspondence be sent to the Surgeon-General, District Medical Officer and Collector to which the meeting unanimously agreed.

Mr. Behr proposed the following Resolution which was seconded by Mr. Sladden and passed unanimously :—

> "That as Government have informed us that they cannot keep a proper Medical Officer in the District, and as a sufficient stock of medicines is never available at the Valparai Hospital, we consider we should not be asked to continue our subscription till this state of affairs is rectified."

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.—The following Resolutions were put to the meeting and passed unanimously :—

Proposed by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Simcock :—

> "That the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Trichinopoly, pointing out that the present arrangements for the supervision of the Telegraph line in the District are inadequate, and asking that a competent officer able to effect all ordinary repairs be appointed, in as much as there have been several cases lately of the line coming down across the cart road and lying there for 2 or 3 days at a time to the danger of the public."

Proposed by Mr. Sladden and seconded by Mr. Simcock :—

> "That 2 coolies be employed by the Anamalai Planters' Association at the Valparai Post Office to assist as Telegraph Peons."

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I. AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT. —The following Resolution proposed by the Honorary Secretary and seconded by Mr. Scott was carried unanimously :—

> "That this Association agree with Mr. Richardson's letter appearing in the *Chronicle* of the 16th instant and request that a Meeting of Planters, Bankers and Coast Firms be called by the U. P. A. S. I. at the early date to consider the whole matter of Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and Labour Department.

LABOUR AND LABOUR RULES.—Read the Deputy Director of the Labour Department's letters on the subject of Act XIII. Decided that the district continue to work under this Act and do not ask for Act 1 of 1903.

SERVICE OF WARRANTS IN ANAMALAIS.—Read Deputy Director of Labour Department's letters on this subject. The following gentlemen kindly consented to place a room at the disposal of the police during their visits to the District :—Messrs. Marsh, Robinson, Scott, Combe, Biddell and Behr.

The Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the Deputy Director asking that when warrants are sent up to the district for execution the police be instructed to first visit the estates on which complainants are living and see the Managers, so that guides can be provided to point out warrantees.

LOCAL LABOUR RULE 5. Mr. Scott proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Congreve and passed unanimously :—

That the following words at the end of Rule 5 be deleted

"Before employing him further"

And that the following words be put in instead :—

"At the option of the Original Employer"

The Honorary Secretary was requested to send out a copy of the Rule with the alteration added to all planters in the district.

FINANCE.—Mr. Jones asked what it was intended to do with the considerable funds now at the credit of the Association, and suggested part might be used for the building of cooly shelters on the Ghat.

The Honorary Secretary pointed out that it had been already decided to build 2 Bazaars on the Township which would absorb a large part of the surplus.

Mr. Pittock suggested that is was time to start a reserve fund for the Association and proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Marsh was passed unanimously :—

"That this Association decide to place Rs. 500 on fixed deposit fo one year with a Recognised Bank as a Nucleus of a Reserve Fund."

DISTRICL RATES FOR GRAIN AND CART HIRE.—Mr. Marsh put his proposal before the meeting, and after some discussion it was agreed that there would not be time to go into the matter thoroughly.

Mr. Behr therefore proposed that :—

"An Extraordinary General Meeting be called as soon as possible to consider Mr. Marsh's resolution as to district cart and grain rates and that a copy of his resolution and remarks be circulated amongst the members at once."

This was agreed to.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.—The following gentlemen were elected :—

Chairman	... Mr. J. E. Scott
Vice-Chairman	... Mr. J. Hatton Robinson
Hon. Secretary	... Mr. C. R. T. Congreve
Committee	... Messrs. Behr, Marsh, Simcock, Pittock.

Mr. Marsh proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman for all he had done for the district during the past 2 years. He said that all the members of the Association owed Mr. Robinson a debt of gratitude for the very able manner in which he had looked after the interests of the district and the untiring manner in which he had attended to all the details connected with his office.—(Carried with acclamation.)

(Signed) J. HATTON ROBINSON,
Chairman.

(„) C. R. T. CONGREVE,
Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Tea.

Copy of telegram dated the 1st March 1918 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number thirty-one. Food Controller can contract for further twenty-five million pounds from India over and above forty percent. already arranged. You arrange with Calcutta Agents of London Controlled gardens also with locally controlled gardens the shares of excess quantity. Suggest you give Southern India Estates full consideration (50). If possible ship first balances yet to be shipped from estates that have not shipped forty per cent. As far as possible draw further supplies from gardens t[illegible] had difficulty in shipping nineteen seventeen crop prior to November first. Essential you should see that average cost of extra (100) supplies does not exceed average cost of entire forty percent purchased." — "FOODMINDERS." (Food Controller, London.)

Memo No. 6761-6763 T. C., dated the 2nd March, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Fairlands, Sidapur.
4th March 1918.

Possible Coffee Markets in Mesopotamia.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir.—I enclose 2 letters for publication and would suggest that this matter should be followed up, and later placed before the Committee which I trust, will shortly be appointed to go into matters, of urgency and general interest to coffee planters, so that they may decide if, or what, further action should be taken.

This is not a time for individual and selfish action, or the strong will benefit at the expense of the weak. Rather let us all hang together, thus securing the benefit of our best brains and energy for the benefit of all.

In this connection I think greater use might be made of the *Planters' Chronicle*, and that if necessary this publication should be enlarged, and a small charge made for it, in view of additional expenditure entailed.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY G. TIPPING.

December 28th 1917.

MESSRS. STRICK SCOTT & CO.,
BUSRA.

Dear Sirs,—When in Madras last week the Hon'ble Mr. Gordan Fraser gave me your name as a firm likely to know about and render us assistance in the Coffee business.

In view of the lack of tonnage for coffee to U. K. and France, we are anxious to ascertain the extent of the demand up the Gulf and in Mesopotamia and also the names of reliable firms likely to take up Agencies for receiving and distribution, with information regarding the best means of getting our coffee through to Busra and Bagdad, the grades of coffee most appreciated and the prices ruling for same, in those markets.

Any information that you can give us on these and other points that may occur to you as a business firm familiar with that part of the world, will be most thankfully received.

With apologies for troubling you in this matter, but hoping that mutual benefits may result from our correspondence,

Yours faithfully,

PERCY G. TIPPING,

Vice-Chairman, United Planters' Association of South India.

14th February, 1918.

Ref. No. G/.

P. TIPPING, ESQ.,

Vice-Chairman, United Planters' Association of South India, Fairlands, Sidapur, Coorg.

Dear Sir.—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 28th of December last. You will probably understand that commercial markets in Busrah are in a very uncertain condition and considerable speculation occurs even in the actual stocks of goods already in the town. Consequently, we are unable to give you any idea of prices ruling, as same fluctuate to a very considerable percentage even in the course of one week. If you care to send us samples of various coffees available in your District for shipment, we should be pleased to give you offers. Unfortunately, the question of freight is one which we are afraid will stop any possibility of business being done in the immediate future. Should you, however, have any means of obtaining offers of freight from Bombay to Busrah and could in consequence make us c. f. i. offers, we should no doubt be able to respond to same. Such offers would of course have to be made on the basis of samples after their arrival at this end.

We are afraid these particulars offer little encouragement, but the whole difficulty at the present moment is one of freight accommodation. If you can get over this at your end, we can probably make you offers of business.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

STRICK SCOTT & COMPANY, LTD.

General Manager.

Ootacamund,
20th February, 1918.

Sir Fairless Barber and the South Mysore Planters' Association.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
South Mysore Planters' Association,
Mudigere P. O.
Through the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.,
Davershola P. O.

Dear Sir,—I feel that I owe an apology to your Association and to Coffee Planters in general for the result of the action I took in regard to Government assistance.

I did express my regrets at the Nilgiri Planters' Association Meeting on the 25th January but I do not think that these were published in the Proceedings.

I have no wish to exculpate myself but it may interest your members to know how that note came to be written.

I was not asked to press the U.P.A.S.I. resolution before Government, but I had been asked to do so in regard to some other resolutions and in September I found out that these had not yet been sent up to Government. At the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting there was considerable comment on the delays in any action taken by the U. P. A. S. I , so I wrote and told the Secretary that I was surprised that Resolutions had not been sent up sooner. He forthwith sent them, but owing to the illness of our Reporter, they were sent without any of the remarks of the Mover or Seconder attached. This earned for me the first rap over the knuckles from your President, for he was given to understand that it was my fault that the mere bald resolution had been sent up without anything to support it; but I can see no reason why it should not have been sent up with an intimation that the remarks of the Mover and Seconder would follow later on,

About the 10th November I was asked by the Chairman to find out what the Government of Madras were doing, and why there was such a delay in getting an answer. I did this and advised the Chairman that it was necessary that a detailed scheme should be brought forward and that this had been asked for in early October. I also pointed out that the resolution was a conditional one and that the question of tonnage was still a matter of correspondence between Madras and India.

The next step was the interview with the Viceroy and Mr. Montagu at which Mr. Nicolls, Mr. Tipping and I were present. The conversation almost entirely turned on the difficulties of coffee planters and during the conversation I asked the Viceroy if, some course or other were possible and he told me to send in a suggestion to be considered, as he was not prepared to commit himself to a definite decision off-hand. Subsequently I went with Mr. Nicolls and Mr. Tipping to see Mr. Knapp. I had Mr. J. G. Hamilton's draft Purchase Scheme and though this was not in the form in which it was to be presented to Government I gave it to Mr. Knapp to read so that we could discuss the salient points of it. As a result of that and previous conversations I had had with Mr. Knapp I gained the impression that the Purchase Scheme would not go through and mindful of the constant enquiry, "why this delay," I spent the rest of the day in preparing this note. The following morning it was shown to Mr. Nicolls and Mr. Tipping for their criticism, then it was sent in, and I also advised Mr. Cobb of the outlines of it.

The criticism offered by Mr. Tipping was that certain individuals would not like it, but both he and Mr. Nicolls agreed that individuals could not be considered if the existence of the industry were at stake.

It was not till the middle of January that I heard this had caused delay but I am inclined to plead that "it was a very little one." My note went to the Government of India and a reference was made to Mr. Cobb. Mr. Cobb had the Purchase Scheme before him and was in a position to choose, as I understood that the decision practically rested with him and the Government of Madras would follow his recommendations.

To turn to the Proceedings of your Meeting. I said in my note, "The suggestion is made in order to keep up prices," I should have added "to a remunerative level" and I believe the same idea prevails in my note. I am afraid I did take exception to the word "surplus" and certainly I looked upon the undisposed of stock as surplus, but I did not take exception to it until it was pointed out to me that the Government could not be expected to saddle itself with such. I hasten to add here that I taken no exception to Mr. Hayward's criticism, for in every way it is justifiable, but I did take what I thought to be the natural course, for speed was essential and I consulted every body I could, and it did not seem to me that either the manner or means of salvation were so essential as the salvation itself. I can only say the same in regard to Mr. F. M. Hamilton's remarks as I have said regarding Mr. Hayward's. I would only ask him to consider what the position was in December as compared with August. I think if the text of the resolution be taken it will be found to have become a dead letter, even though the condition had been fulfilled.

I cannot agree that the note I prepared was diametrically opposed to the resolution passed at the U. P. A. S. I. meeting, for it had the same objects in view, *viz.*, the keeping of prices at a remunerative level and the provision of funds for the maintenance of the estates.

Mr. Hamilton says I should have drawn up a scheme of my own had I wanted to immediately after the U. P. A. S. I. meeting, but surely that is expecting rather more of me than he expects of others, for in 4 months no scheme of any sort had been put forward even by the Proposer and Seconder, though it had been asked for. It happened that I was asked to put forward a suggestion that had cropped up in the conversation on coffee difficulties with His Excellency the Viceroy, I had only one day to prepare it in, as I thought, but I did not prepare it without ascertaining to the best of my ability what the views of the Government of Madras were likely to be on a Coffee Purchase Scheme that was not yet fully formulated.

I can only express my regrets again that the action I took has delayed matters to any extent over and above the 5 months that had already elapsed between the passing of the resolution and the presentation of the Purchase Scheme.

There is perhaps no need to answer any criticism of the suggestion I put forward since it has been withdrawn, but I should like to remind Mr. Hayward and Mr. Hamilton that it is based on a working example that has been before the world for years.

I would thank both these gentlemen for giving me credit for good intention and since the proceedings have been published I would request that this, my apology, may be published also.

Yours faithfully,

E. F. BARBER.

South Indian Planting Association.

An Extract from Mr. H. M. Knight's letter to the Secretary, U.P.A.S.I.

As already advised you Messrs. G. L. Acworth, George Romilly, O. A. Bannatine, H. P. Hodgson and Brooke Mockett and myself have formed a Committee to organise the Scheme suggested. I have approached the Committee of the Indian Tea Association through Mr. George Croll—who has kindly placed his services at out disposal—as to whether their Association will take us under their roof. Mr. Croll tells me that the Committee have agreed that their Chairman Mr. Steel and Mr. Kingsley (a member of the Committee) will meet him (Mr. Croll) at an early date (they are very busy at the moment) to fix up some arrangement—directly a decision has been come to, a meeting will be called of our Committee and the representatives of all South Indian Companies and Agents interested in the Planting Industry will be invited to attend when the Association will be launched and the details of working discussed.

Fairlands, Sidapur,
March 3rd 1918.

Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—No apology is necessary in asking you to kindly find space for yet another letter on this subject of vital interest to the Planting community.

The more this subject is discussed before coming up for settlement, the more equitable will be the final decision.

Mr. Richardson's suggestion for holding a monster meeting in Madras at an early date is outside the bounds of practicability and even if possible, is undesirable, for obvious reasons, at this present juncture.

As the Labour Department is the chief "bone of contention" I would suggest that the Director, and—or, the Deputy Director be invited to visit all all the affiliated Association Meetings, as soon as this can be arranged, through the U, P. A. and District Honorary Secretaries, and there discuss the problem as affecting each District.

In view of the rapid expansion of Tea and Rubber cultivation, particularly in S. India, not to mention the present and ultimate results, of the activities of the Army Labour Corps, and the Labour problems affecting other tropical countries, which draw supplies from S. India, there can be no question of the ever increasing need of a well organised and powerful Labour Department, nor of the benefits, both direct and indirect, derived from the systematic hunting up of defaulters and professional swindlers, and the better order that is being evolved out of the chaotic conditions that were rapidly developing before the inauguration of this Department.

The early difficulties that the Department had to contend with, which were increased by depletion of the staff by death and the War, should not be overlooked. If we put aside private grievances and heckling for the time, and have a free and open discussion, I think that a better understanding, and much good would result from such meetings.

Regarding the proposed transferance of the U. P. A. offices to Madras; The rapid expansion and growing power of the Association makes it essential that the Head quarters should be in the busines Capital of S. India. The saving of time and other advantages to be derived from the move are obvious,

There are also other aspects of the question that have only to be generally known to command serious and favorable consideration.

I see no reason why the Annual General Meeting should not always be held in Bangalore, that being the most central and convenient place of meeting for the majority of Members, besides having climatic advantages. Scientific Department: But for the war this would have already become a Government Institution, with Experimental Stations for the most important of our products, on a large and efficient scale and that, without any additional calls on individual members. This in my opinion would, alone, be worth all that we are likely to be called upon to pay.

As producers we can confidently hope for more help and consideration from Government, when the war strain is over, than ever we had in the past, so I argue that this is another Department to keep a hold of.

I am therefore strongly of opinion that we should hang together as a whole, and not let small individual sacrifices obscure the long and broad view of the situation.

To stick together is the safest way of tackling the growing troubles and difficulties that beset us on every hand.

To separate the various Departments and interests can only mean more expenditure and less power.

With a single subscription, reduced to the lowest workable limit, and a scale of charges for services rendered by the several Departments, an equitable and workable scheme might, I think, be evolved. The drawing up of the details of such a scheme would not present any very great difficulties to those with business abilities.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY G. TIPPING.

Pollibetta, S. Coorg,
6th March, 1918.

Lime.

THE EDITOR,
The *Planters' Chronicle*,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Perhaps Dr. Coleman, Mr. Anstead or some other reader of yours will be kind enough to give me information on the following points in connection with lime and its application:—

(1). Why is it that *air*—'slacked' lime—that is lime left on roads for, perhaps, 4 or 5 weeks, and which if turned over about once a week during this period will 'slack' itself—is said to do harm to soil when applied to it? I am assured that this is so—in fact that when 'slacked' as above it becomes absolutely poisonous.

(2). Which is the better state in which to apply lime—'slacked' or 'un-slacked' and should it in either case be dug in or left on the surface—the latter a broken one?

(3). Is crushed lime-stone a good thing to apply and if so, how should it be applied?

I shall be very grateful for any information on the above.

Yours faithfully,
F. MACRAE.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, has gone to visit the Kerala Estate, with a view to setting out some important experiments. He will be returning about the 26th instant.

We publish an article on Market Reports. The irregular delivery of the *English Mail* prevents these appearing every week.

We publish the Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Central Travancore Planters' Association.

We publish an article on *Leucaena glauca*, a small leguminous tree, information about which was published by the Ceylon Department of Agriculture.

The Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. has inspired one of our contributors with a "fine frency" the result of which has caused him, like Silas Wegg, to "drop into poetry."

In our correspondence columns we publish the last circular letter from the Rubber Growers' Association together with the latest form of Assent. If those members of the Rubber Growers' Association fill these and send them to the U. P. A. S. I. Office they will be forwarded to the Head Office in London, or they can be sent direct.

Communications from the Indian Tea Commissioner up to date are published.

Mr. V. Hunt replies to Mr. Macrae's question about lime.

Mr. Tipping has sent us some correspondence on the Coffee Crisis,

The O. C. Supply Depot, Ninth Division, asks us to notify that all communications in connection with the Purchase of Coffee for Army Rations should be addressed to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. and not to him.

The following information has been received from the Minister of Commerce and Industries *re* import of Indian Coffee into South Africa:—"3078 D as promied to Lake and Tipping have ascertained there is no restriction import of India coffee into Union of South Africa.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Market Reports.

After a considerable interval we received by last mail a Market Report from Messrs. T. H. Allan & Co., dated 21st February, in which they give the following information :—

MONTHLY STATISTICS TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

	1917. Tons.	1916. Tons.
East India—		
Landed to 31st December	3,209	2,205
Delivered to 31st December	2,365	2,740
Stock on 31st December	1,611	767
Coffee of all kinds—		
Stock in U. K. on 31st December ...	39,855	37,000
Total European Imports to 31st December ...	185,540	359,520
Total European Deliveries to 31st December ...	251,705	340,165
Total European Stock on 31st December ...	159,285	225,465
World's Visible Supply on 31st December ...	588,940	661,135

Prices during 1917—

	Middling, East India.	Good Middling, Cost Rica.	Superior. Santos.
1st January ...	77/-	78/-	52/6
31st December ...	102/-	105/-	—

Supplies have consisted chiefly of Santos. The offerings of mild coffees have sold well. East India's have been in very small supply and almost entirely second hand, but 197 bags of Matheson's Cowerie Betta arrived in December. These were bought in at 100 for A and 95/6 for B and afterwards sold privately at full prices. Nairobis and Ugandas ex "Clan Fraser" met with good competition and the former in many cases realised very high rates.

Under the scheme of Government Purchase there is no Tea market to report on. Rubber after a period of dullness recovered sharply, but has since become quiet again.

A Method of Killing Trees Quickly.

We are often asked how to kill a tree quickly and effectively so that the following which appeared in *the Indian Forester* for January (XLIV. I) may prove of interest to planters. Mr. C. W. Allan, a retired extra Deputy Conservator of Forests says that he has found that Atlas Preservative kills trees in less than a fortnight. The method adopted is to girdle the outer bark of the trees not cutting into the bast and to apply the preservative with a brush to the girdle. On the second day the leaves begin to wither, in a week the tree is absolutely bare of leaves, and in less than a fortnight it is quite dead. Soft wood trees die much more easily than hard woods. The preservative kills not only the part above the girdle but the roots also and what is more it preserves the wood and makes it immune from the attacks of white ants. Mr. Allan says that he has had Pithecolobium Saman lying on the ground for three years without a white ant attacking it. He continues "The preservative is excellent for killing epiphytic Figs on Ficus-bound trees. It is necessary only to cut the bark off the exposed part of the roots or bole of the Ficus and apply the preservative. The bast draws up the preservative to all parts of the tree and in a very short time the Ficus dies and in a few months begins to fall off leaving the host intact and uninjured."

The following should be of interest to the Coffee planter ;—

" In many instances it is necessary to kill large soft—wood trees growing over clumps of Teak etc. If the tree is felled outright a great deal of damage results, however carefully the tree may be felled. If it is girdled very deep as must be done in the case of soft woods and trees with no heart wood it is necessary to cut very deep into the tree with the result that it falls if a strong wind strikes it thereby doing damage. If it does not fall it takes three or four years to die. Treated with the Atlas preservative it dies in less than a fortnight and the branches fall to the ground gradually, the very small ones, then the larger and so on. The cover is removed and the young plants in the interests of which the tree has been killed, get light and come on rapidly. The stronger the preservative applied, the quicker the tree dies. I prefer to use it pure. One gallon will kill many trees."

Atlas preservative is advertised in most of the tropical journals by the Atlas Preservative Co. Ltd., Windmill Lane Wharf, Depford, London, S. E., and there are probably agents in South India.

Smithia blanda.

A sample of this Leguminous plant has recently been analysed. It is very common in hill tracts especially in moist places and in the High Range it grows naturally among the Tea and it is thought possible that it might be used as a green dressing. It has a scrambly habit with stems some two feet long, simple pinnate leaves with 6-10 small leaflets in each, and small bright yellow pea shaped flowers in bunches at the end of the shoots.

An analysis of the sun dried plant gave the following result :—

Moisture	7·16
* Organic Matter	84·34
* Soluble Ash	6·96
Insoluble Matter	1·54
	100·00
*Containing Nitrogen	2·80%
*Containing Potash	0·81%
Do. Phosphoric Acid	0·41%

Its Nitrogen content compares very favourably with that of other well known green dressings like *Tephrosia candida* (Boga Medeloa) and it is possible that when it grows freely it might be used as a green dressing. It would certainly be worth collection from waste places, when, labour is available and burying in the Tea.

Its main objection is the small yield per acre. The plant cut and weighed from a measured area indicates that it gives about 600 lbs. of sun dried material per acre and this would be equivalent in manurial value to a dressing of about 200 lbs. of good Ground Nut Poonac.

Tephrosia candida however gives a far greater yield per acre and so is a preferable plant to grow.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Association, was held at Tungamallay Bungalow, on the 16th, February 1918, at 10 a.m.

PRESENT:—Messrs. J. S. Wilkie (Chairman), W. F. Stephens (Honorary Secretary), J. A. Richardson, D. McArthur, J. West, Stanley Sinclair, A. A. Brodie, A. H. Gerrard, and by proxy W. A. J. Milner.

1. The Secretary read the notice calling the meeting.

2. The Minutes of last General Meeting were taken as read, and the Minutes of last Committee Meeting were read and confirmed.

3. The Honorary Secretary then read his report for 1917 as follows:—

(1) Before detailing the work of the Association during the past year, I would first refer to the honour Government has conferred on the Planting Community through the Knighthood of our Planting Member which I am sure is a well merited and popular honour. Sir Fairless Barber has worked hard for the planting industry and only a few who have come in close contact with him and his work have any idea of the time and trouble he has spent in our interests.

(2) I must also mention those who have joined H. M. Forces some of whom have already given up their lives for their King and Country.

In all, this District has sent 27 men and we, who have had to stay behind, are proud of what they have done. The names of the Gentlemen are :—

G. W. S. Agar, Wallardie Estate, Medically rejected.

E. D. Atkins, late 1st Class Magistrate, Peermade, is now 2nd Lt., I.A.R.O., Sialkote.

H. C. Bracher, Stagbrook, 2nd Lieut., 48th Pioneers, I. A. R. O. Mesopotomia, Road making.

G. Bromley-Browne, Moongalar Estate. 2nd Lieut., Black Watch, killed in France.

J. H. Cantlay, Pambanar Estate, R. G. A., France, Acting Captain.

T. S. Connor, Cheentalar Estate, 2nd Lieut. I. A. R. O.

J. D. Deane Drummond, Dymock Estate, Captain, Royal Horse Guards, France.

B. L. Erskine, Munjamallay, Captain, 7th Manchesters, France.

E. C. C. Evans, Bonami Estate, 2nd Lieut., A. S. Corps, England.

G. P. Farley, Tungamallay, 2nd Lieut., I. A. R. O. Now attached 57th Wildes Rifles, Ferosepore, wounded.

W. E. Forbes, Cheentalar Estate, O. T. C. of R. H. A., Badly wounded.

R. L. Goldsmith, Vembenard Estate, 2nd Lieut, R. E., originally in Motor Cyclists.

R. E. Haslam, Bonami Estate, Lieut, 26th Light Cavalry, I. A. R. O. France.

R. D. Scoble Hodgins, Woodlands Estate, 2nd Lieut., R. F. A.

F. M. Lowder, Nellikai Estate, Corporal Motor Cyclists, Killed in France.

C. Martin, Injikadu Estate, 2nd Lieut R. G. A.

W. B. Middleton, Pullikanam Estate, Believed killed in E. Africa.

W. W. Moser, Thengakal, 2nd Lieut 3rd Border Regiment; France.

K. E. Nicoll, Glenmary Estate, Lieut A. S. C., France.

R. E. Rhodes, Wallardie Estate, Captain, Royal Scots, Scotland.

A. G. Stewart, Chenkara Estate, (believed to be also Royal Scots).

A. R. St. George, Haileyburia Estate, Commission, France.

P. A. Murray Thompson, Arnakal Estate, 2nd Lieut., 8th R. Irish Rifles, killed in Gallipoli.

L. S. Trelawney, Wallardie Estate, Rank and Regiment not known, killed in Mons.

H. S. Walford, Arnakal Estate, 2nd Lieut., 10th Worcesters, Egypt.

T. C. Forbes, I. A. R. O., Mhow.

Wounded	...	...	...	2
Killed in action	...	..	...	6
With their Regiment	...	...	...	19
			Total	... 27

(3) The year under review has been a strenuous one for all branches of the industry and our particular product has had its fair share of troubles as regards shipping and finance which has greatly enhanced the work of this Association. During the year three General Meetings and two Committee Meetings were held.

The acreage and crop returns secured by the Association are as follows :—

Mature Tea	...	14154 acres.
Immature Tea	...	1449 ,,
Total under Tea...		15603 acres.

The yield per acre all over for the District which includes 1914 planting works out at 472 lbs. per acre.

The past year was not altogether a favourable one for crop and I think the above figures may be considered satisfactory.

The chief items which came before the Association during the year were Tea Allotments, Food Controller's Purchase Scheme, Indian Tea Cess and the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Up to the time the present Food Controller's scheme came into force an allotment of 33% of estimates passed by the Advisory Committee was allowed.

From the 1st of November the Food Controller's Purchase Scheme came into force and between that date and the 31st of May next we are allowed to ship 40% of last year's estimate or 33% of 1918 estimated crop provided the latter is passed by the Advisory Committee.

Payment to be made in rupees at 1/4*d* exchange and pending the fixing of definite prices for the various Estates we can draw the temporary flat rate of 6 anna per pound plus Export duty '24 Tea cess '02 & '50 to cover extra cost of manufacture making in all 6'76 annas.

It is to be hoped a definite price for our teas will be settled soon as 6'76 annas per pound drawn against shipments, unless these are frequent, will not meet the financial requirements of the Estates on 40% of their crop for any length of time.

INDIAN TEA CESS.—During the year we agreed to a further extension of the Indian Tea Cess for a period of five years to the 31st March 1923.

With reference to this an article in the *Madras Mail* on the Planting Industry points out that under the re-organisation scheme of the U.P.A. we should have control of part of these funds so far as the proportion of the total cess that is spent in pushing teas in South India is concerned which seems a very sound suggestion and one which I hope will not be lost sight of.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—This is perhaps the most important matter before the Association and in fact the whole Planting Industry at the present moment. We have impressed on the Gavernment of Madras the importance of the Planting Industry and it has met us in the most liberal way as regards our Scientific work and it is up to the Planters to see that they do not lose all they have gained, and by combination make the U. P. A. a more useful and powerful Association than it has been in the past.

IMPORT DUTY ON OUTSIDE TEAS.—This is another matter which has been brought to our notice since restrictions have been put in the export of tea to the United Kingdom.

India with its ad-valorum duty has been made the dumping ground for all sorts of rubbish from Ceylon for the Indian Market whereas we cannot import tea into Ceylon under 4 annas per pound. The U. P. A. S. I. should press Government to impose an equal duty on Ceylon tea coming into India which can surely be no hardship.

His Highness the Maharaja proposes to visit Peermade at an early date and I am sure will receive a hearty welcome from the District.

It is many years since His Highness visited these hills and I am sure His Highness will be much impressed with the rapid development which has taken place in recent years due in no small measure to the favourable terms the Planter has always received from His Highness's Government.

The Accounts have been audited by Mr. J. A. Richardson and show a credit balance of Rs.1,094-9-10.

Postages and telegrams are heavy and is due to the extra work involved during the year, and the Postmaster refusing to hand letters to Estate tappal coolies which necessitated stamping them.

LADY AMPTHIL'S NURSING INSTITUTION.—I regret has not received the support it merited in that, only a sum of Rupees 80 was paid through this Association.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman, and Vice-Chairman and Committee for the help given me.

4) INCREASED SHIPPING RATES. The Honorary Secretary was asked to write to Messrs. Aspinwall and Peirce Leslie pointing out that the charges for the tea shipped for the Food Controller *viz.* 1/4% are considered excessive and the maximum we are prepared to pay is 1/16th %. The following telegram was despatched to both firms:—" Association considers 1/4th per cent charges on shipping controllers tea excessive will agree 1/16th per cent maximum."

5) H. H. THE MAHARAJAH'S VISIT TO PEERMADE. It was decided to let this stand over for the present, until details of His Highness visit is more definite.

6) LADY AMPTHILL'S NURSING INSTITUTION. Resolved that the Honorary Secretary send Rs. 100 annually from this Association.

7) ACCOUNTS. Proposed by Mr. A. H. Gerrard and seconded by Mr. D. McArthur that the accounts be passed.

8) The Chairman said :—

Gentlemen,—You have heard our Honorary Secretary's report and he having gone fully into the doings of the past year, I feel there is little I need say. He has referred to the honour done to our Planting Member Sir Fairless Barber whom I am sure we all congratulate on this well deserved recognition. I would here like to mention our Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. to whom you will agree, we owe an acknowledgment for all that he has done in our interests during the past year. We, like other Associations, recognise the enormous amount of work our Chairman and Planting Member have had to undertake.

During the past year the uncertainty of our market has caused us considerable anxiety and although the Food Controller's scheme for purchase of 40% of last year's crop does allay this to a certain extent. We have still to find a market for the greater part. As our Honorary Secretary has already mentioned one of the most important subjects of the year is the proposed re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. As we all know the original proposal was a re-organisation of the Labour Department but this gave place to a suggested re-organisation of the entire body of the U. P. A. S. I., by which all branches were to be combined, thus making a stronger collective body, thoroughly representative of all matters affecting the planting industry, we are I think in favour of the suggestion, but find it difficult to express an opinion in the absence of definite figures. There will be no return to the conditions which prevailed before the war and to safeguard our interests in the future a strong and representative body is essential. You will note from the Honorary Secretary's report that our acreage now approximates 16000 acres; this increase must be a source of great satisfaction to us all.

Our Planters War Fund has now reached the total of Rs. 70,000. We all know its purpose and I fear that ere the war ends the total subscribed will be required. I hope all of us will keep the fund in mind.

Before closing I would suggest that our Association Rules be examined and revised. Some considerable time has elapsed since this was done and they are at present somewhat indefinite.

In tendering my resignation I would wish to thank everyone for their kindly forbearance in this my first term of office. I would also wish to thank the Committee for all the assistance they have given us and the Honorary Secretary whose duties have been decidedly heavier than in previous years.

9) GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF TEA.—The meeting considered it advisable to draw the attention of members to the careful nailing and hooping of packages as notified by the Tea Commission.

10) RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—After considerable discussion in Committee Mr. McArthur said :—" With reference to the discussion which has taken place over the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I., it is in my opinion the general trend of events whether one would avoid the increased expenditure or not that points to a reorganisation of the U. P. A. S. I. being a necessity. However ably the present Executive of the U. P. A. S. I. have carried things through in the last three years, and are still doing so most Planters will, I think, admit that the interests of S. India have been until quite recently more or less ignored. I do not think that with a well organised department, this would have been possible. By well organised, I specially mean such an organisation as would have been able to know and deal with any emergency

as regards finance, shipping, tea contracts and various other matters. No separation of the General, Labour, Scientific department can help us. If we are to be united in name, let us be so in character. Different products have different conditions, and need different assistance, but surely these are not so insurmountable that they cannot be overcome. The *Madras Mail* in their leading article in which they congratulated Sir E. F. Barber, on his Knighthood, very rightly summed up the improved position in South India, if I may call it so, which the Planting Industry now holds. Having come so far, it seems to me nothing short of a catastrophe for our industry if we cannot combine to "Give and Take," and put our representative organisation on a footing calculated to ensure the most efficient working and representation of our affairs. Any failure to grasp the urgency of our present need for combination will, in my opinion, be bitterly regretted in future years." The following resolution was than proposed by Mr. McArthur, seconded by Mr. Richardson and carried:—

"This Association proposes that as a first step towards the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I., which is acknowledged by practically all Associations both in the correspondence which has appeared in the *Planters' Chronicle* and the Press, to be a move for the benefit of the Planting Industry, that the U. P. A. S. I., issue a circular to all Associations asking for a definite opinion as to whether they agree to support a comprehensive scheme for the re-organisation including in one cess:—

General.
Labour.
Scientific Department,

and that so soon as a definite reply be received from all Associations, a conference be called of representatives of the Planting Community and of Mercantile interests to formulate a scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I., on the above comprehensive cess."

In support of Mr. McArthur's resolution Mr. Richardson said.

Gentlemen,—A good deal has been written and said about the organisation of the U.P.A.S.I. but with the exception of the article in the *Madras Mail* on the 28th January, on which I wrote a letter to the "*Planters' Chronicle* which I had hoped would appear in this week's issue, we are still far from any definite scheme. I am all for combination and an inclusive subscription but at the same time want to know beforehand what I am going to get for it. Until we know this it is simply waste of breath, ink and paper discussing the subject. In my letter to the *Chronicle* which will appear next week I have proposed a conference of the whole Planting Industry, Banks and Merchants interested to go into the matter but before a meeting of this sort can be of any service there is much to be done. Except for the article in the *Madras Mail* which threw out a few suggestions as to what the U.P.A.S.I. should do for us nothing official has been put forward. Till some definite scheme and estimated cost of running same is put forward we cannot get any further. To begin with the Labour Department is by far the largest section of the scheme and will naturally cost most but if the U. P. A. S. I. is to be run as it should be the general expenses will be considerably heavier than at present. To begin with I would add Rs. 18,600 to salaries over and above the present estimate if we are to have a trained business man at the head of affairs. This will bring the general expenses of the Association up to Rs. 39,600 or say Rs. 40,000 to cover extra postages, stationery &c. The Scientific department including a Mycologist was estimated at Bangalore at Rs. 20,000 but if we are to include a special Mycologist for Rubber which in my opinion is imperative I would increase this to Rs.25,000.

Of course it must be remembered that the Madras Government has promised to run the whole Department including Mycologist and Experimental stations for us on a payment of Rs. 10,000 a year from the U. P. A. and the total expenditure is estimated at just on Rs. 50,000. The Labour department as I said before is much the biggest item and it stands to reason if one thinks of the number of Agencies with Europeans and Indian staffs it has to employ. A reduction could no doubt be made if the Head Quarters establishment was run by an Assistant under the Secretary of the U. P. A. and Mr. Martin's services made use of elsewhere and this I think is inevitable. Mr. Malcolm in a letter appearing in this week's *Chronicle* sums the services of the Labour Department up under two headings :—

1. As an introducer of new labour connections and in the decided hope of extension of recruiting to previously unexploited areas.
2. As an information bureau, including the rounding up of the defaulters, recovering bad debts and supply of general information regarding Labour in present recruiting areas.

No. 1. He says has been a "wash out" and the reason is not far to seek. It was due to the total inability of the Department to get men for the work owing to the war and the loss the Department suffered through the deaths of Messrs. Ward and Day.

No. 2. Mr. Malcolm admits has been an unqualified success except in the matter of recovery of bad debts.

He also says the results are well worth Re. 1 per acre and it would be cheap at that but it cannot be done for this unless the whole Planting area of Southern India joins in and that is something just on or over 20,000 acres of European owned estates. As I said before a temporary saving could be made by putting the Head Quarters establishment under the H. P. A. Secretary but as soon as the war is over we shall want more European Superintendents and Indian Agents which will soon swallow up the saving. In the same letter Mr. Malcolm questions the neceesity of transferring the U. P. A. S. I. offices to Madras. I can only refer him to the article in the *Madras Mail* of the 28th January with which I fully agree. Mr. Malcolm anticipates that our troubles will disappear when peace is declared but in my opinion our worst troubles will only begin then. As I said when Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. in 1914 it is only when we have to count up the cost of this terrible war we will realise what it means. Labour troubles will be worldwide, taxation will not be less, we can already see the huge shipping combines which are being formed and unless we have a strong representative body including business men to look after our interests (with which I am glad to see Mr. Malcolm agrees) we will be in a bad way. As regards Mr. Gompertz's proposal to do away with advances I am sure no one will disagree with him over this but it will need an act of Parliament with many severe penalty clauses to bring about this desirable state of affairs. I also agree with Mr. Gompertz "that Coast Firms are quite capable of managing their own affairs" but this cannot be said of the Planting Community, as has been proved, otherwise we would have had a contract with the Liners Conference as the Indian Tea Association had, South India would not have been done down over tonnage and tea shipments as we undoubtedly were during the early part 1917 and the Coffee planter would have been saved a lot of his present troubles. Mr. Aird complains that the Coffee men have had least out of the Lebour Department but I would point out that the Department has done a great deal to restrict recruiting for different Districts to certain areas and in this way has no doubt helped the Coffee planters.

If Coffee cannot afford to raise its rates of pay it is a serious matter. With the advent of rubber in South India tea has had to raise its rates and in my opinion Coffee must follow suit. I had already taken up a lot of your time and will close by suggesting that the U. P. A. S. I. Council and the Control Committee of the Labour Department between them draw up a scheme and estimated cost of running it which must be printed and circulated and if possible discussed before the next U. P. A. meeting. It is impossible to say what the cost per acre will be till we form a scheme that will meet with more or less general approval and know the acreage subscribing.

(11) SOUTH INDIAN PLANTING ASSOCIATION.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the U. P. A. S. I. asking what steps have been taken with regard to the London representation.

(12) COOLY CHUTTRAM AT MUNDAKAYAM.—The Honorary Secretary was asked to again draw the attention of the Honorary Secretary, of the Mundakayam Association to this Association's request for plans and specifications of the proposed cooly Chuttram, intimating that the Peermade subscriptions would amount to approximately Rs. 800.

(13) SRI MULAM DELEGATES EXPENSES.—It was agreed that this Association send our delegate Rs. 100 towards his expenses.

(14) KOTTAYAM AND KUMILI ROAD.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to point out that sections of this road, done up for H. E. the Governor of Madras, had not been touched since, and money and labour had been wasted for the want of a side drain, which could be cut for a small expenditure; and would also point out the scandalous state of sections of this road between Vandiperiyar & Pambanar for which ample money has been provided. The excuse being that water is improcurable, which statement this Association does not agree with. Copies of letter to be sent to Chief Engineer, Trivandrum, Dewan of Travancore, Executive Engineer, Kottayam.

15) ST. GEORGE'S HOMES.—Mr. Richardson said:—

Gentlemen,—In bringing forward the subject of the St. George's Homes I would first of all remind you of the Rev. Mr. Breeden's address to the U. P. A. S. I. in 1916. It met with unqualified approval at that meeting and considerable financial support. What have we done since? The necessity for funds still continues and the object requires no further explanation from me. I would refer you to Sir Fairless Barber's speech at the annual meeting held in Madras on the 6th which speaks for itself but more especially to Mr. Breeden's closing remarks in which he says the magnificent response which came from the planting community was due to him (Sir Fairless Barber) which I think will prick the conscience of some as it has done mine. I hope the district will subscribe liberally to the Homes and I am sure the Honorary Secretary will gladly receive and forward the subscriptions.

The Honorary Secretary was asked to circulate lists for subscriptions.

(16) ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1918.—Mr. McArthur was appointed Chairman and Mr. Kinmond Honorary Secretary. The following General Committee was elected:—Messrs J. S. Wilkie (Vice Chairman) Stanley Sinclair, J. A. Richardson, H. C. Westaway, and W. F. Stephens, with power to add to their number.

The meeting then closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) D. McARTHUR,
Chairman.
(„) T. A. KINMOND,
Honorary Secretary.

LEUCAENA GLAUCA.

This small leguminous tree which is used as a Coffee shade in Java grows wild all over the Nilgiris and other hills of South India and has been used successfully as a shade in young Coffee in Coorg. The following information about it was published recently by the Ceylon Department of Agriculture as Leaflet No. 7.

This plant is a small leguminous tree, native of Tropical America, at present to be found acclimatized in many parts of the low-country of Ceylon. It is common in Java, up to 4,000 feet where it is used as shade for coffee and for fuel, and is abundant throughout the whole of the low-country of Mauritius, Reunion, and many parts of Madagascar, being used for fuel and fodder. In the Philippines also it appears to have spread within recent years and is reported as being there used for planting in wild grass lands and as light shade for forest plantations.

Leucaena glauca has been used for some years on the Experiment Station, Peradeniya, as a green manure for rubber, and has been regularly cut 4-5 times a year with the object of adding humus to the soil. The average quantity of green material per acre per year has been found to be: first year after planting 29,000 lbs, second year 77,000 lbs. (5 cuttings), and third year 91,900 lbs. (6 cuttings). Under these conditions it is kept at an average height of 2 ft. In Java it is likewise used as a greenmanure plant. It is commonly employed in young coffee and rubber plantations up to 3,500 feet, and has been experimented with in tea. It is lopped every 3-5 months, and gives a fair quantity of green mulch per acre.

As a green manure in young rubber it was found to be sometimes rather difficult to establish, but where a good cover has been obtained it has stood frequent cutting well, and does not appear to suffer from spells of dry weather.

It is used in Java as a light shade for Robusta coffee and is being similarly employed at the Peradeniya Experiment Station. It seems to be well suited for this crop. These shade trees are allowed to grow to about 10 feet in height, and they are lopped twice a year, the loppings being mulched around the coffee trees.

In Mauritius, where the plant grows wild over extensive areas of land it is coppiced regularly every year or every alternate year for fuel. The individual stems of the plants cut have a diameter of between 2—3 inches and its use as fuel is mainly confined to suction gas plants and to household purposes. Under Mauritian conditions trees left for years uncut rarely attain a diameter of more than 4—8 inches, or a height of more than 15—18 ft. In Java the trees grow to a height of up to 24 feet. The plant in Mauritius is found mainly in the dry zone, with an average rainfall of 50-60 inches of rain, and is encouraged as a light shade in aloe fibre plantations. In the neighbouring island of Rodriguez large tracts of Crown land are covered with *Leucaena glauca*. Fuel is cut from these lands for household purposes, while the leaves are collected for feeding cattle and goats, and the dry seed for export to Mauritius, where they are greatly appreciated as food for cattle.

Cattle are very fond of the leaves of *Leucaena glauca*, and in some places herds of goats are housed and fed solely upon leaves of this plant

with the object of producing manure. The leaves are rich in nitrogen and potash salts, as the following analysis shows :—

	Per cent.
Ash	9·26
Nitrogen	2·52
Potash	2·38
Phosphoric acid	0·45

The seeds are also a valuable food, rich in nitrogen, and may be fed to cattle, sheep, or goats. It should, however, not be fed to horses, as it causes an irritation of the skin, with subsequent loss of hair from the mane and tail, and sometimes coat.

Analysis of the seed give the following average results :—

	Ceylon. By Agricultural Chemist. Per cent.	Mauritius. By P. Boname. Per cent.
Water	4·50	9·59
Ash	4·55	3·69
Woody fibre	14·50	14·00
Fats	6·40	4·84
Non-nitrogenous matter ...	40·11	38·24
Nitrogenous matter ...	29·94	29·64
	100·00	100·00
Nitrogen	4·79	4·74

The outer coat of the seed is very tough, and accounts for 50 per cent. of its weight.

Laboratory tests were made by Boname in Mauritius in 1897, where he separated the seed from the seed coat and then analysed them. The results were as follows :—

	Meal from inner part of seed. Per cent.	Husk. Per cent.
Water	11·44	12·58
Ash	4·78	3·42
Woody fibre	7·80	13·90
Non-nitrogenous matter ...	37·09	55·03
Nitrogenous matter ...	31·87	11·87
	100·00	100·00

On account of this hard seed coat, it is usual in practice either to boil the seed until the seed coats burst or to crush the seed dry in an ordinary seed crusher. The latter practice is generally recognised in Mauritus as being the more satisfactory, and is in agreement with the general practice of feeding cattle with dry food rather than with mashes or slops. In the Phipillines it is recorded that *Leucaena glauca* has been successfully used by forest officers against illuk (*Imperata arundinacea*) for it is quick growing and eventually shades the illuk sufficiently to effectively kill it out. It is also used, as stated above, to provide shelter for seedlings of the forest plantations. The young forest trees are afforded a light shade by the *Leucaena glauca*, and when they have attained a fair size, it is cut out and used as fuel. Actual figures are available from the Philippines as to the

quantities of fuel yielded by this tree. Experimental plots have yielded average returns of 10 cords (nearly 50 cubic yards) of fuel per acre per year. The fuel has a high calorific value, and it is considered to be a high class fuel wood. It has a straight grain, and splits easily.

In Java it is reported that plantations of this plant are being made for fuel purposes, and it is worthy of consideration whether it would not be useful in Ceylon for providing fuel for tea factories in some districts where a shortgage of fuel is now being felt. The wood is also employed in Java for wagon bars, and for such it is favourably reported upon.

No accurate data appear to be available as to the age at which plantations could be first coppiced in the Colony, but judging from growth at the Experimental Station, Peradeniya, it might be expected that the first cutting would be possible at the end of three years under average conditions.

Leucaena glauca is also known as a soil renovator. It is the general experience in all countries that soil under this plant subsequently taken into cultivation is of good fertility, and there are instances of poor land being improved by being allowed to remain for some years under it.

Whilst there are no recorded or known instances of *Leucaena glauca* spreading rapidly on its own accord in any parts of Ceylon, it appears to grow satisfactorily under varied soil and climatic conditions. It would appear that the plant is most suited to semi-tropical conditions and to those localities that do not have too high a rainfall.

The Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

" Wont you walk into my parlour " said Madras to " U. P. A."
" Its the very finest parlour and no entrance fee to pay "
(But if we enter heedlessly that little room so fine,
Who'll call the tune and who will dance? Be careful, brother mine.)

" No, No," quoth Ooty, perched among the Mountains tall and blue ;
" You settle *here*, make *me* your home and you will never rue
" The day you changed your residence, the day you chose the Hills."
(Among green bug and leaf disease, and other "wusser " ills.)

Then up spake young Coimbatore, " I am *the* place indeed,
" I'm full of Science, Labour too, and everything you need,
" If you choose me, you'll ne'er regret the move to scenes so grand,
" With Colleges so stately." (and Dust storms charged with sand ! !)

" What have I done " wept Bangalore " that I should thus be shamed ?
" I've served you well for many years ; for what now am I blamed ? "
(" When Coffee was a paying game 'mong Planters near and far,)
(" I ruled the roost, but now it seems I'm done, like poor Bihar ").

WHERE IS THE PLANTER TO DECIDE HIS FUTURE HOME TO MAKE ?
HE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL AND HE MUST BE WIDE AWAKE,
OR HE WILL FIND IN TRYING TO GET CLEAR OF PRESENT MIRE,
HE'S MERELY LEFT THE FRYING PAN TO SOJOURN IN THE FIRE.

" KHABADAR."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Rubber Growers' Association.

(Incorporated.)

38, Eastcheap,
London, E. C. 3,
15th January, 1918.

TO ALL PRODUCERS OF PLANTATION RUBBER.

Dear Sir (s),

The circular dated 20th December 1917 has met with an encouraging response. A large number of producers have signed the Form of Assent unconditionally; others, whilst recognising the necessity in the national interest for reducing output, have suggested modifications which will have the effect of securing a greater number of adherents.

It has been suggested that a percentage of cultivated area, rather than a percentage of membership, should be secured before the agreement to reduce output becomes operative.

The aim of the Council is to secure unanimity, so far as that is possible, and at its recent meeting it was unanimously agreed that 70 per cent. of the total cultivated area of Rubber owned or controlled by the membership of the Association should form the basis of the agreement.

You are requested (whether or not you have signed the previous form) to sign the amended Form of Assent attached hereto and to return it to this Office as early as possible, but not later than 31st January, 1918.

It will be a convenience if you can supply particulars of production and acreage when returning the Form of Assent; if such particulars are not yet available, you are asked to forward same as soon as received.

To meet those cases where the rigid application of the scheme might operate unjustly, the Council has set up a Special Committee which will deal with them on their merits. The acceptance of the Committee's ruling in cases of this character shall be taken to be a concurrence in the scheme.

It is particularly requested that those producers who feel unable to sign the Form of Assent will be good enough at once to communicate with the Committee, giving full particulrs of their reasons.

In response to inquiries, the following definitions are given for the purposes of the scheme:—

CULTIVATED AREA.—Any land on which Rubber has been sown or planted.

LAND IN BEARING.—Any area over which regular tapping is in operation.

Some misunderstanding having arisen regarding the clause in the previous circular to the effect that no reduction would be required below 200 lbs. per acre in bearing during 1918, it is thought desirable to have this proviso more clearly defined. It is the intention that where a company agrees to the proposed scheme relying on the 200 lbs. per acre basis, this limitation shall be deemed to apply to the entire acreage owned or controlled by such company and in bearing during 1918, independently of whether such acreage is in fact operated by the company in separate Estates or divisions of Estates.

Every effort is being made to induce producers outside the Association —including Foreign and Colonial Companies and individuals—to agree to the proposals outlined herein.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. READ,
Acting Secretary.

FORM OF ASSENT.

To the Council of the RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED).

In compliance with the circulars from the Council of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated, dated 20th December 1917 and 15th January 1918 I/we agree to reduce my/our production of Rubber for the year 1918 in accordance with the terms of the said circulars, provided:—

(1) That this agreement shall cease to be binding unless prior to the 16th February 1918 I/we have been notified in writing that Members of the Rubber Growers' Association owning or controlling not less than 70 per cent. of the cultivated area represented by the Association have similarly agreed.

(2). That the Council of the Association may, by notice in writing, authorise the increase of the total amount of crop to be produced.

I/we undertake to render to you as soon as available:—

(*a*) the figure of my/our total production for 1917 (or the alternative year of greater yield);

(*b*) the total acreage of our Estate calculated to be in bearing during 1918;

(*c*) Particulars of my/our production month by month during 1918.

For and on behalf of.....

.....

.....

PARTICULARS OF PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE.

My/our production for 1917 was ... ... lbs.
My/our production for 19 was ... ... lbs.

(The alternative year adopted)

My/our total cultivated area is ... ... acres.
My/our total area in bearing in 1918 is ... acres.

For and on behalf of.....

.....

.....

38, Eastcheap,
London, E.C. 3.
16th January, 1918.

The Rubber Growers' Association.

(INCORPORATED.)

CIRCULAR TO MEMBERS.

IMPORT LICENSES.

Dear Sir, (s),

I am directed to draw your attention to copies of communications as appended recently received by this Association from The Rubber and Tin Exports Committee and The Rubber Trade Association of London.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. READ,
Acting Secretary.

Communications Referred to:—

Rubber and Tin Exports Committee,
3, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.1.,
9th January, 1918.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 8th inst, I am directed by The Rubber and Tin Exports Committee to inform you that licences are now required for the import into the United States of America of Crude Rubber (including Gutta Joolatong), Gutta Percha, Balata, Gutta Siak, Scrap and Reclaimed Rubber. These licenses must be obtained by the importers from the United States War Trade Board, and must be surrendered to the United States Customs Authorities before taking delivery.

Blank forms of application may be obtained from the Bureau of Imports, War Trade Board, Washington, D.C., or any of its branch Offices.

I am Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
J. K. GREBBY,
Secretary.

THE SECRETARY,
The Rubber Growers' Association.

The Rubber Trade Association of London,
6, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3.
4th January, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I beg to hand you herewith an extract from a letter received from the Rubber Association of America regarding Import Licenses. Specimens of the Application Form together with Rules and Regulations covering the importation of Crude Rubber may be seen at this office.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM G. BRIGGS,
Secretary.

"IMPORT LICENSES: These, as we advised in our cable, are to be applied for by the American importer. An application form is provided. This is a form that the War Trade Board is using on a number of commodities which now require licenses to import.

As regards particulars required : As we have represented to the Board, it is often quite impossible to give the name of the producer of crude rubber, so our authorities will not likely insist upon this being supplied except, of course, where the importer is able to do so.

The name of the consignor should be given the importer here at as early a date as possible after a purchase is concluded.

The consignee (as the bulletin indicates) on shipments made hereafter, must in all instances be the Rubber Association of America, Inc., otherwise the license will not be granted.

As regards shipments now in transit: The British Consuls at the various U. S. A., ports have instructions to endorse the bills of lading over to the Rubber Association, who in turn will release them to the importer on the filing of guarantees, as per forms 1 to 3, over the signature of persons or concerns satisfactory to the War Trade Board.

The War Trade Board recommends that the American importer should apply for a license just so soon as he has concluded a purchase, and wherever possible to predicate said purchase from the foreign seller on his ability to get a license to import it.

Laying aside the practicability of this suggestion, in all cases we do not believe there will be much trouble in reputable firms procuring the required licenses readily at the present time."

The Rubber Growers' Association.

(Incorporated.)

38, Eastcheap,
London, E.C. 3.
23rd January, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, R. G. A., Local Committee,
C/o The United Planters' Association of S. India, Incor.,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt on 19th instant of your telegram reading :—

"The Committee Local branch Rubber Growers' Association re-
" solved it approves of proposed reduction of Rubber output
" laid down by R. G. A. London provided Ceylon, Malaya and
" other producing countries do likewise. Information wanted
" whether restriction should be made by Estates producing over
" two hundred lbs. per acre all round or only on portions of
" Estates which have produced over two hundred lbs. in nine-
" teen seventeen."

In the further circular issued by the Association dated 15th January, the substance of which will have been cabled you from Ceylon you will have noticed that it is stated that "where a company agrees to the proposed scheme relying on the 200 lbs. per acre basis, this limitation shall be deemed to apply to the entire acreage owned or controlled by such company and in bearing 1918, independently of whether such acreage is in fact operated by the company in separate estates or divisions of estates."

The Association's two circulars have been communicated to all known producing companies in Ceylon, Malaya and the Netherlands Indies, and already a large measure of support has been forthcoming.

New Members, &c. I enclose herewith a list of members, &c. elected at the Council Meeting held on 7th January.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. REED.

Acting Secretary.

Tea.

Copy of telegram dated the 4th March 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"95. Continuation my ninety-two. Have consulted Advisory Committee regarding extra twenty-five million pounds required. Kindly cable whether this quantity is in excess of the original one hundred and forty millions or whether it is in excess of the estimated quantity which will be tendered against your original contract for forty per cent, which will fall short of one hundred and forty millions vide my cable number fifty-three dated thirty-first January. Shall arrange to allot Southern India their proportionate share of excess if they can supply." "TEA COM" (Tea Commissioner for India.)

Memo No. 6830-44 T. C., dated the 4th March, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

W. M. KENNEDY,

Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of Telegram dated the 4th March 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"96. Your number twenty-six regarding damaged chests. Have made following arrangements for Calcutta after discussion with Advisory Committee and Liners Conference (1) all teas tendered will be inspected by Expert and representative of Steamer Company who will jointly decide (*a*) what chests are fit for shipment (*b*) what chests may be shipped after thorough repairs, (*c*) what chests are to be shipped after gunny packing (*d*) what chests are to be rejected and repacked before shipment. (2) No chests to be gunny packed till examined by Expert and Ships representative. (3) No teas to be shipped unless Steamer Company grants clean Bill of Lading for them and decision of Expert and Steamer Company's representative to

be final. Regret delay in replying which was due partly to discussions with Committee and Conference and partly to my illness. Handling of chests in Calcutta Port greatly improved and generally satisfactory. Condition of chests at other Ports good and instructions issued that none are to be shipped except on clean Bill of Lading."—"TEACOM." (Tea Commissioner for India.)

Memo No. 6849—65 T. C., dated the 5th March, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 5th March 1918 from the Food Controller London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number thirty-three Several Garden Invoices have arrived only giving total number packages of invoice. Essential that Garden Invoices contain detailed particulars of each grade. Have been informed that you have fixed decimal nought eight of penny as difference between Calcutta Sale Price and F. O. B. Have you definitely fixed this figure. All these calculations should in the meantime be subject to adjustment. Actor had one invoice garden mark Jaints marked with Broad Arrow. Essential that no Civilian Tea should be marked Broad Arrow. When War Office packages have been gunnied Broad Arrow must be outside gunny as well as on package. Please see all documents are clearly stamped original duplicate triplicate respectively."—"FOODMINDERS" (Food controller.)

Copy of Telegram dated the 7th March 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"99. Your number thirty-three detailed particulars of each grade always noted now either in garden invoices or invoices of cost. In consultation with Tea Association fixed flat rate deduction of decimal nought eight of anna to adjust difference between Calcutta Sale and Shipping charges, and after discussion with Southern India Committee adopted similar rate there between Colombo Sales and Southern India Shipping charges. Shall inform all concerned that these calculations subject to adjustment. Regret during pressure of loading January few mistakes in marking War Office teas may have escaped notice but Lloyd has had staff at Docks checking and correcting these errors made on estates. Am again notifying Shippers of importance of care in this matter and regarding marking of gunnied chests, and marking documents original etcetera." "TEACOM" (Tea Commissioner for India).

Memo No. 7186-7201 T. C. dated the 7th/8th March, 1918.

Copy with copy of telegram dated the 5th March 1918 from the Food Controller, London, is forwarded to the Secretary United Planters' Associa- of Southern India.

W. M. KENNEDY.
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 7226—73 T. C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From Lieut.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All firms shipping Teas to the United Kingdom.

Dated the 8th March, 1918.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to attach for your information a copy of the Food Controller's telegram No. 33, dated the 5th instant lately received by me and to add the following remarks:—

DETAILS OF GRADES.

Shippers are requested to note these instructions carefully, but so far as I am aware the required information has always been given either in the invoices of cost or in the attached garden invoices.

FLAT RATE TO ADJUST SALE & SHIPPING CHARGES.

I have informed the Food Controller that the flat rate deduction mentioned has been fixed after consultation with the Indian Tea Association and that a similar flat rate has been fixed to adjust the difference between Colombo sale prices and Southern India shipping charges after consulting Madras Advisory Committee. Shippers will please note that the calculations are subject to adjustment.

MARKING OF CHESTS FOR WAR OFFICE.

Mr. W. J. Lloyd has lately, also received the following telegram from the War Office:—

"64585. War Department Tea reported that marking is not entirely satisfactory. Desired that all shippers should conform to one standard marking. Dimensions of Broad Arrow should not be less than one foot and colouring to be invariably black. Bills of Lading should be endorsed to the effect that chests of Army Tea are marked with Broad Arrow shipping companies will then recognise this marking as indicating War Department property,

Shippers are requested to exercise great care that only those chests containing teas selected by Mr. Lloyd for the War Office are marked with Broad Arrow, that such chests, if gunny packed, are marked with the Broad Arrow both on the chests and on the gunny cover, and that the Broad Arrow mark is of the proper dimensions. Mr. Lloyd will supply new stencil plates on application. I may add that Mr. Lloyd reports that some estates have marked all their chests, including even dust, with the Broad Arrow. This caused much unnecessary trouble, and shippers are accordingly requested to give urgent instructions that only teas of the grades selected for the War Office by Mr. Lloyd should be marked with the Broad Arrow, and that no teas for Civil consumption should be so marked.

MARKING OF DOCUMENTS ATTACHED TO BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

Shippers are requested to mark all documents attached to the First, Second and Third of Exchange respectively,—"ORIGINAL", "DUPLICATE", and "TRIPLICATE".

I have the honour to be
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 7274-87 T. C. dated the 8th March 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

"Karradi Betta,'
Kenchammana-Hosakotie P. O.
Hassan District.
March 13th, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Lime.

Dear Sir,—I venture to reply to Mr. F. Macrae's letter dated 6th inst, in your issue of the 9th instant regarding Lime.

As regards para 1, I can find no reference to support the theory that 'air-slaked-lime' is in any way injurious to the soil. I quote the following from A. D. Hall's Book "Fertilisers and Manures" Chap: lx, action of lime :—"Stone lime should be distributed in small heaps, covered with a little earth and left for a week or two, to 'slake,' under which conditions it will fall into a fine powder. The heaps are then broken down and thrown abroad before ploughing."

Again in John Kenny's "Intensive Farming in India" 2nd edition 1916, page 154, similar advice is given for its slaking in India :—"The best way of applying lime is to make small heaps at regular intervals, and cover these with earth. The moisture in the earth soon causes the lime to 'slake,' and when it reaches the powdery condition, it should be spread evenly and harrowed in."

As regards para 2 of that letter the above quotations should be enough to show that lime should be applied to land after it has become 'slaked.' Hall's advice on this point is as follows :—"Since lime becomes Calcium Carbonate in the soil, obviously the same results would be obtained by applying the latter material, the main advantage in the use of lime lies in the very fine state of division into which it falls on "Slaking," and the consequent good admixture with the soil that is effected."

As regards its being dug in I hesitate to give more than my own opinion, which I certainly only give as such, and not as advice. On flat land and applied in the hot weather and applied as only a light dressing, I should not think digging in is necessary, if leaves, &c., are brushed over it, to prevent wash. On steep land and applied as a heavy dressing, I should mostly certainly advocate its being dug in.

As regards para 3 of that letter, I would suggest obtaining Scientific advice. Hall says on this point as regards British lime-stones that except for a few good beds they are rarely sufficiently soft to allow of their direct application to the land, with any prospect of their reduction to fine state by the action of the weather.

Many of us, I am sure, would be much obliged to Dr. Coleman and Mr. Anstead if they could give us any information as regards local lime-stones.

It would be interesting also if Mr. Macrae could give us more particulars as regards "air slaked-lime" becoming poisonous: or perhaps his informant will be so good as to enlighten us.!

Yours faithfully,
E. VIVIAN HUNT.

Fairlands, Sidapur,
12th March, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,

Coffee Crisis.

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly publish the enclosed letter from the Hon'ble Mr. Gordon Fraser, which is in reply to a letter of mine. There is very little encouragement from any quarter, but this, I think, only further emphasises the need of the suggested small Coffee Committee.

In selecting this Committee the main aim should be to elect men living together, no matter if they all come from the same district, frequent meetings could then be held without loss of valuable time.

The Chairman in his letter to you dated 7th instant, supports my original suggestion of appointing one or more men from Coorg, Mysore, and Madras, but there again the difficulties in the way of frequent meetings, is the stumbling block, and we all know what a waste of time occurs in trying to arrange and settle important matters by correspondence. The saving of time in settling and pushing on of important matters chiefly markets and finance is the main object of this proposal.

The second object was to assist the Chairman by relieving him of some part of his heavy responsibilities and work, which continue to increase every day that the War continues. Such being the case our idea is that the smaller the Committee is and the nearer they live to each other the better, and unless theChairman would care to elect such a Committee out of hand the delays of correspondence will again greatly postpone the election, even if the suggestion is generally approved by coffee men.

I would therefore suggest that coffee planters be invited to meet at an early date in Bangalore to discuss and settle some plan of action. The larger the attendance the better. If such a Committee be elected it need only be a temporary measure, which could be revoked at the August meeting, if by then, it did not justify its existence. The gloomy outlook makes it imperative that we should bestir ourselves as a body, so I trust that if this suggestion is not approved, other suggestions will be put forward immediately. Personally I am prepared to accept any suggestion that will help Coffee planters, in the crisis.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY G. TIPPING.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received another letter from a friend in Mespotomia, which I ask you to publish. The names of various firms will be submitted to the Committee if and when appointed, and in the mean time I am communicating with the firms.

Fairlands, Sidapur,
13th March, 1918.

My dear Nicolls,—Copy of my letter to *Planters' Chronicle*, but I am very doubtful of men coming to Bangalore even at this season, and time passes.

If you feel disposed to take the bull by the horns and ask me to get a small Committee together in Coorg, as a temporary measure, I would have a try and advise you by wire of the result.

This smalll working Committee, with U. P, A. S. I. authority, would not be empowered to encroach on U. P. A. prerogatives or to deal directly with any question involving expenditure of U. P. A. funds. They would deal with markets and questions of internal ways and means.

I am not wanting the job, but as one of your "Vicls" and a coffee man as that, I feel that it is up to me to put this suggestion before you.

Personally I am agreeable to any energetic trio or quartet that could meet without delay and expense, and if you have such a trio or quartet in view in any other coffee district, I shall be very happy in being relieved of the responsibility, In haste.

Yours sincerely,
P. G. T.

Madras, E, 8th March, 1918.

Dear Tipping,—The replies I received to my enquiries *re.* coffee for Busra did not give me any information worth passing on. Both my correspondents promised to go into the matter further and let me know but so far probably because they are both busy with their own duties in the Army, I have heard nothing more.

I note from your letter that Strick Scott & Co., have asked for samples with a view to starting a coffee Agency there. In response to another enquiry, I wrote to our Bombay correspondents, some little time ago as to the possibilities of obtaining freight for coffee from Bombay to Busra, and whilst they could not give us information of any definite sailings they said they were prepared to interest themselves in the business. They also asked for samples.

If you think they would be of any use to you, you might write direct to them and see if they can assist you either in selling the coffee or obtaining freight from Bombay to Busra.

Should I obtain any further information on the subject I will pass it on to you.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) G. FRASER.

Somewhere in Mespot, 3-2-18.

Many thanks for yours 28th December to hand to-day, and which finds me on a special show over 160 miles from Bagdad and beyond our front line. I cant say any more but will, I hope, be able to write of what should be a most interesting expedition later. Meanwhile your enquiries regarding coffee in this country interest me intensely, especially perhaps, as I have always been of opinion that the sale of coffee could be considerably increased, as the demand is far in excess of the imports (none being grown here as you know) The Coffee I have seen seems of very poor quality and I think I am correct in saying is almost entirely "native" (poor quality) and other low grade stuff from India. As I have explained my position you will realise my difficulty in making enquiries at present, but as opportunity offers I shall find out what I can, meanwhile is attached a list of Firms trading in the country prior to, and in most cases, I understand, during our occupation. Numerous Bombay firms have come in since our occupation of course and as I have not been in Busra for nearly a year and Bagdad for 4 or 5 months, I am unable to give you accurate information, but will enquire and let you know anything I find out.

The Arab being a good Mahomedan, of course does not drink any intoxicant and what corresponds to our whisky and soda is his cup of coffee usually drunk in the Turkish style with no milk in small cups. On entering an Arab house one is invariably offered coffee, and as a matter of course

have to accept it. At present the high price of coffee confines its use to the well-to-do classes whereas an increase in import and corresponding decrease in cost would bring it within the reach of many who cannot afford or procure it under the present conditions. In the list attached I have included all European firms and have no doubt, you in India would be in a better position to ascertain as to their reliability or otherwise than I should, in my present position and capacity. In addition to those firms there should be a small outlet for higher grade coffee by selling to the Expeditionary Force Canteens all over the world and if Government is supposed to be endeavouring to render assistance they could no doubt help you to get, at any rate part of this contract. As far as this country goes I am certain the demand exceeds the sale as one can so rarely get coffee from the Canteens. Hence my wire to you for same.

I am afraid this is rather a business letter. I am away up in the mountains with snow all round in a very bracing climate on a most interesting job.

Yours, etc.

I omitted to mention in my letter the existence of Cafés in every Village no matter how small and the crowds of people who sit there.

Extract from Bulletin de Correspondence of Havre Brazil exports.

Expedit. Rio Semaine		total	saison.	1916/1917.	1915/1916.	1914/1915.
E.-Unis sacs	...	2,000	599,000	596,000	305,000	380,000
Allemagne	...	—	—	—	—	21,000
Pays Scandinav	...	—	51,000	19,000	837,000	—
Hollande	...	—	—	10,000	20,000	8,000
Belgique	...	—	—	—	—	8,000
Italie	...	—	51,000	53,000	105,000	—
France	...	—	192,000	348,000	461,000	150,000
Autriche	...	—	—	—	—	22,000
Angleterre	...	—	—	6,000	16.000	—
Aut. Europ	...	—	1,000	—	—	348,000
Cap Bon-Esp., etc.	...	4,000	135,000	153,000	175,000	142,000
Totales Sacs	...	6,000	1,029,000	1,185,000	1,919,000	1,079,000

Exped. Santos Semaine		total	saison.	1916/1917.	1915/1916.	1914/1915.
E.-Unis sacs	...	105,000	2,289 000	3,447,000	3,017,000	2,439,000
Allemagne	...	—	—	—	—	44,000
Pays Scandinav	...	—	54,000	56,000	1,607,000	—
Hollande	...	—	55,000	101,000	340,000	551,000
Belgique	...	—	—	—	—	20,000
Italie	...	—	433,000	439,000	464,000	—
France	...	10,000	842,000	1,092,000	729,000	390,000
Autriche	...	—	—	—	—	23,000
Angleterre	...	—	—	346,000	139,000	—
Aut. Europ.	...	—	—	—	—	1,089,000
Cap Bon-Esp., etc.	...	—	116,000	84,000	88'000	69,000
Totales, sacs	...	115,000	3,789,000	5,565,000	6,984,000	4,630,000

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, provides an article on Lime in Agriculture, which was called forth by the enquiry of Mr. Macrae.

Telegrams up to date from the Indian Tea Commissioner are published.

Mr. Leslie Rogers in our correspondence pages contributes a letter on the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

We publish a letter from the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry. We trust information will be forthcoming as to the quantity of coffee that is likely to be shipped monthly to South Africa which would enable the Government of India to ask the Government of South Africa to give priority to certain quantities of coffee.

We publish some correspondence on the Financial Aid to Coffee Planters, and by the courtesy of the Hon'ble Mr. Cobb we are permitted to publish a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry to himself as Chief Commissioner of Coorg. We hope to be able to publish by the end of the month a definite policy arrived at between the Governments of Madras, Mysore and Coorg.

The Labour Department issues a timely warning to its subscribers against some suppliers of labour who have found their occupation gone owing to restriction on emigration of coolies.

The Chairman sent the following telegram to the U. P. A. S. I. Representative on the Chamber of Commerce, London:—

"Represent Shipping Ministry hardship imposed on Southern India Rubber Estates by restricted shipment. Owing climatic causes thirty five per cent of crop is procured in October, November and December. Young companies capital exhausted. Without shipment will be unable meet bills when matured. Request shipment crop end December 1917."

The following telegram has just been received from Mr. Mockett:—

"Prospect Greece buying large quantity coffee in India immediately. Am negotiating."

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	69,514	6	7
Mr. D. Elkington	485	9	5
Totals Rs...	70,000	0	0

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Lime in Agriculture.

Lime is one of the essential elements of plants; it enters into the composition of the ash of all plants, leguminous plants especially containing a high proportion of it in their ash. Consequently it is of importance that this element should be present in the soil in sufficient quantity.

The term 'lime' is applied to several different substances and this leads apparently to confusion at times as witness Mr. Macrae's letter in the *Chronicle* of 9th March.

The commonest form of Lime in nature is the carbonate. This is found as chalk and lime-stone, and in South India occurs chiefly in the form of shells and Kankar. It is insoluble in water but if the water is charged with carbon dioxide, as soil water is, then the carbonate of Lime is rendered soluble, bicarbonate of lime being formed. Hence the lime present in soils is being continually washed away into the drains and rivers.

When carbonate of Lime is heated or burned in a kiln, carbon dioxide gas is expelled and there remains behind calcium oxide, or quick lime, a substance which possesses strong alkaline properties not possessed by the carbonate. This change may be represented by the equation—

Calcium carbonate = Carbon dioxide + Calcium oxide.

If pure substances are being dealt with, every 100 parts by weight of calcium carbonate burned yield 56 parts by weight of calcium oxide. In actual practice however it is seldom that pure carbonate is dealt with. Shells are the purest form of carbonate found in South India and consequently are the best source of quick lime. Kankar may contain a lot or a little of calcium carbonate depending a great deal on the locality of the deposit. A number of samples of local kankars have been analysed in our laboratory and these have varied in Calcium carbonate content from 92% to as low as 47%. West Coast shells are nearly pure carbonate. (See *P.C.* IX p. 702).

When water is added to quicklime a chemical action takes place and a considerable amount of heat is evolved; the mass swells up and finally breaks down to a fine powder. This is Calcium hydrate or slaked lime possessing the alkaline properties of the quicklime but with the advantage of being in a more finely divided condition. Again if pure substances are being dealt with every 100 parts by weight of quick lime when slaked yield 132 parts by weight of slaked lime.

Both quick lime and slaked lime if left exposed to the air for some time absorb carbon dioxide gas from it and return to the original form of calcium carbonate, the process being known as air slaking and air slaked lime is chiefly composed of calcium carbonate the same as shells or Kankar but somewhat finely divided.

Now it is not the amount of lime in the soil which determines its effectiveness but the form in which it exists. In addition to being present as Carbonate it may also exist as Silicate, Sulphate, or Phosphate and sometimes as Nitrate.

The Carbonate, however, plays other functions besides those of a plant food. In the natural decay of the vegetable matter present in the soil as humus acids are formed and these acids if they accumulate in excess are

prejudicial to the health and activity of the Micro-organisms concerned in the manufacture of plant food. These mico-organisms require an alkaline medium and the Calcium Carbonate by neutralising the acids as fast as they are formed supplies these alkaline conditions.

Now the majority of South Indian soils contain very little Calcium Carbonate, often less than a tenth of a per cent. and many of them are acid and thus unhealthy. Hence the need of adding lime from time to time.

In addition to the above functions Carbonate of lime plays an important part in the absorptive and retentive properties of soils. The salts of ammonium and potash either as sulphates, chlorides or nitrates when applied to the soil as fertilisers are not retained as such, but in the presence of carbonate of lime there is an interchange of acids, the stronger acids, like the sulphate, chloride and nitrate, combining with the lime and the carbonic acid with the ammonium or potash in which condition these are more readily retained by the soil ready for the use of plants.

With regard to the form in which lime should be applied to the soil it will be noted that whatever form is put out it ultimately becomes carbonate and indeed the application of carbonate is beneficial.

In Europe lime is often applied to the fields as chalk and under European condition the winter frosts break down the lumps of chalk and enable them to be mixed intimately with the soil.

In the tropics however lime cannot be applied in this way as were shells put out they would only weather very slowly and they could not be well distributed and mixed with the soil. Could they be finely ground no doubt it would be a good thing to apply them and finely ground limestone such as is obtainable in Syhlett is beneficial. In Southern India however such material is not available so that lime has to be applied in other forms, and is best put out in the form of slaked lime. Quick lime can be applied with advantage but in practice it is a very difficult material to transport and handle.

Moreover slaked lime has the following advantages. It is a very finely divided dry powder so that it can be easily broadcasted and intimately mixed with the soil which is what is needed to neutralise its acidity. Also it assists in breaking up the organic matter and liberates plant food in a form available to plants. On clay and heavy soil slaked lime acts upon the insoluble silicates and phosphates and sets potash and phosphoric acid free for the use of plants in a way in which calcium carbonate cannot do.

Consequently the best form of lime to apply is slaked lime and it should be broadcasted and lightly worked into the top soil in the dry weather. As soon as the rains come it will wash in and be thoroughly incorporated with the whole of the soil.

It has been stated above that when left exposed to the air slaked lime will absorb carbon dioxide and revert to carbonate. Hence it must be covered from the air either with a mulch or by forking it in not because the carbonate is harmful in any way but because the hydrated form is most beneficial to our soils in the tropics as a rule and having paid for burning carbonate to this form one does not wish it to return to carbonate again before it is incorporated with the soil.

It is very beneficial to apply lime to South Indian soils in small doses say about a ton per acre at frequent intervals of every three to five years. In fact soils which contain less than one per cent of carbonate of lime are

generally improved by the application of lime which is one of the oldest farming principles known. Those who know their Kipling will remember :—

" And our Lower River Field was won by Ogier the Dane
* * *
" Well could Ogier work his war boat, well could Ogier wield his brand,
" Much he knew of foaming waters, not so much of farming land,
" So he called to him a Hobden of the old unaltered blood,
" Saying, 'What about that River bit, she doesn't look so good,'
" And that aged Hobden answered, ' T ' aint for me to interfere,
" 'But I've known that bit o' meadow for five and fifty year,
" Have it jist as you've a mind to, but I've proved it time on time.
" If you want to change her nature, you have got to give her lime ' ".

The following references to the subject in the *Planters' Chronicle* should be consulted by those who are interested.

Vol. V p. 71. Vol. VI pp. 76, 653. Vol. VII p. 300.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Tea.

Copy of telegram dated the 26th February, 1918. from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

" 84. Indian Tea Association advise that Exchange Banks were unable to negotiate all tea bills by last mail. About fifty thousand pounds could not be sold. Please advise how payment is to be made in cases where bills cannot be sold and procedure as regards delivery of Shipping documents for same. I can probably arrange for Banks to purchase bills of Indian Controlled Concerns without Home connection, and Tea Association would recommend acceptance of demand drafts on London if you arrange this."

" TEACOM."
(Tea Commissioner for India).

Memo. No. 6429-55 T. C., dated the 26th February, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 26th February, 1918, from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

" 86. At request of Southern India Advisory Committee have raised temporary flat rate for Southern India teas from annas six to annas seven."

" TEACOM,"
(Tea Commissioner for India.)

Memo. No. 6508-21 T. C., dated the 26th February, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

R. MILLER,
(For Tea Commissioner for India.)

Copy of telegram dated the 11th March 1918 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number thirty-four Your ninety-two Essential that supplies in excess of forty per cent. should be fairly average of fine and common gardens so that cost of excess averages about same as average cost of forty per cent. Your ninety-five. Extra twenty-five million pounds required is in excess of original one hundred and forty millions. Have arranged for London Controlled Companies that fifty per cent. of excess quantity taken should be paid for in sterling. Your ninety-six noted."

"FOODMINDERS" (Food Controller).

Memo, No. 7473—86 T. C., dated the 12th March, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association (S. I.) Collector of Customs and Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras, has been asked to arrange for Southern India share of the excess which will be about 2,125,000 lbs. Any enquiries or tenders should be addressed to him.

W. M. KENNEDY
Tea Commissioner for India.

The Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—The following query has lately been put to me, and as the same doubts may be in the minds of others, I shall be obliged if you will spare me space to explain matters. I was asked, "If both the Bengal and Ceylon Planters can have merchant members, and the former have the Indian Tea Association in Calcutta, and the latter the Ceylon Planters' Association in Colombo,—why then cannot we similarly have the U.P.A.S.I. in Madras with Merchant Members?"

To begin with Bengal. The conditions there both in management and ownership are very dissimilar to those in South India. The Indian Tea Association for instance is not in a literal sense a Planters' Association. It was neither formed nor managed by planters in a planting district, and then transferred to Calcutta for business reasons, as some suppose. The Association was started in Calcutta itself by merchants, agents of companies, shippers, brokers and others, who for all practical purposes own or directly control the bulk of the planting industry in Bengal. As these merchants, agents, etc., have their business offices in Calcutta, they naturally and very wisely have their Association with them in the same town. The Managing Committee are chiefly Calcutta men, and in a few words the Indian Tea Association is essentially a mercantile organisation, Now the above in no way compares with the conditions prevailing in the U. P. A S. I,, which is purely a planters' organisation, managed by planters. Its members being

entirely proprietary owners of estates, private partnerships, managers, and a few public companies represented by their managers. Madras has comparatively speaking no controlling voice in the planting industry of Southern India. Therefore the fact that the Indian Tea Association is in Calcutta, cannot be logically quoted as an argument for having the U. P. A. S. I. in Madras.

We now come to the Ceylon Planters' Association. This is a genuine planters' organisation somewhat similar to our own. Colombo merchants are not members, as only those who are directly and unmistakably interested in the planting industry can join the C. P. A. The Executive Committee is composed of planters, and the whole management and control of the Association is in the hands of planters; and the interests of the planting community are in every way safeguarded from outside influences. With this end in view the Headquarters of the Association are not located in Colombo as my querist imagined, but away [in the hills at Kandy, the centre of the planting districts, and the Association's meetings are always held there. The C. P. A. controls a far larger share of the planting industry than we do, and we must acknowledge it does it most effectively from Kandy; the Association being a power that is felt by both the commercial element in Colombo and the Government of the whole Island. If our brother planters in Ceylon can manage their own affairs so successfully without outside guidance, why in the name of common sense cannot we do something similar in South India? Why all this undignified harping after Madras, and its merchant advisers and commercial associations? Are we going to placidly admit to the whole world that we are a helpless lot, with less business capacity than other planters? Far from the C. P. A. showing that we ought to leave the planting districts and move down to Madras, it is a telling example to us to keep our Association among ourselves, and manage it on purely planting lines.

I take this opportunity of making a suggestion, which I had hoped would have emanated ere this from other quarters. We have all been told to carefully consider the whole question of the reorganisation of the U. P. A. S. I. before the next Annual General Meeting; but we have not yet before us the opinion of the very men most concerned in the proposed changes. I refer to the heads of the Scientific and Labour Departments, and the Secretary of the Association. Surely their expert opinions are essential in any scheme of reorganisation? I would therefore suggest that they be asked to submit departmental reports giving their views as to what improvements they consider necessary towards increased efficiency, and also where they believe the Headquarters of the U. P, A. S. I. should be located so as to ensure an efficient working combination of all the departments in one central place. These expert reports should be published in the *Chronicle*, and after that measures can be taken to arrive at some definite conclusions. While the all-in subscription in connection with the Labour Department, and the internal re-arrangements of the Secretarial work, are questions that can best be solved by Committees composed of those who have the necessary qualifications and experience of such matters —the final decision regarding the future location of the U. P. A. S. I. must be left to all the members, as Committees, Delegates, and individuals, cannot be expected to be absolutely unbiassed on the point. As this decision will necessarily have far-reaching effects on the future industry, it intimately concerns every planter in Southern India, and therefore *every member* of the U. P. A. S. I., throughout the thirteen affiliated associations, has the right to be consulted and give his individual vote. These votes would be confidential, and sent direct to the Secretary of the U.P.A.S.I., and only opened

at the Annual General Meeting by a select Committee of three independent proprietary planters, who would announce the result and destroy the votes. It is independent individual opinion we want, and not votes by acreage, as a voter with a small holding might quite reasonably be a sounder and better business man, than another in charge of a very much larger area. This procedure would not only save time, but avoid acrimonious discussions, which are bound to take place at the Annual Meeting, if this question is left open to the last moment.

All parties are unanimous that we should show a united front, and I have no doubt we will clearly show it, when the element of discord introduced by the Madras move proposal is once eliminated from our discussions. The suggestions I have made will, I believe, attain this end ; and therefore our attention henceforth should be concentrated on the solution of the labour problem, which is of paramount importance to the future welfare of our industry.

J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS.

Ootacamund,
18th March, 1918.

Shipping of Coffee to South Africa.

No. 3450—D.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Delhi, the 16th March, 1918.

From

G. S. Hardy, Esquire, I. C. S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 6th instant to the address of the Hon'ble Sir George Barnes, I am directed to say that, as already intimated to you in the telegram from this Department dated the 9th instant, No. 3078—D., there is no prohibition on the importation of Indian coffee into the Union of South Africa.

2. As regards your enquiry as to the tonnage available, I am to say that there is a service of steamers from Calcutta to Port Natal, Delagoa Bay and Beira. The service is intermittent but on an average there are two sailings a month. Full information may be obtained from Messrs. Anderson Wright and Company of Calcutta, who act as agents for this line.

The British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, have also four steamers running regularly from Bombay to East Africa and South African ports, and full particulars as to dates of loading, ports of discharge, etc., can be obtained from Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company, Bombay.

The Government of India understand that there are no regular sailings from Madras to African ports.

It is understood that the allotment of freight for South African ports is subject to a priority system under the control of an Import Restrictions Department in South Africa. The Government of India will be prepared to ask the South African Government to give priority to certain quantities of coffee, but before addressing them I am to ask for what quantity of coffee monthly it is anticipated that a market can be found in South Africa.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. HARDY,

Under Secretary to Government of India.

Financial Help to Coffee Planters.

25, South Parade,

Bangalore, 12th March, 1918.

THE HON'BLE MR. H. V. COBB, C.S.I., C.I.E.,

British Resident in Mysore, Bangalore.

Sir,—I have the honour to ask if you can give any information about the *Taccavi* loans to Coffee Planters. I have had many enquiries about this, and to whom they should apply.

I have the honour to remind you that you kindly told me that the matter was a subject of correspondence between yourself and the Madras Government and I should like to be informed if such progress has been made that a public announcement may be made in *Planters' Chronicle* notifying the name of the financial aid official to whom application for assistance can be made.

My Chairman writes me:—"If this lies in the hands of Mr. Cobb,—which I sincerely hope it does—those requiring aid should apply to him direct." It is in connection with this extract that I have the honour to ask if you can give me any information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) FLETCHER NORTON,

Secretary.

No. 962. Encl. 1.

From

MAJOR E. H. S. JAMES, I. A.
First Assistant to the Resident in Mysore.

To

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.
Dated Bangalore, the 20th March 1918.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 12th March 1918, I am directed to enclose for your information a copy of the letter addressed to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Coorg by the Government of India on the question of financial help to Coffee Planters.

So far as Coorg is concerned any applications for loans should be addressed in the first instance to the Commissioner at Coorg. As regards Madras and Mysore I am to suggest that you should ask for information from the two Governments concerned.

2. I am to add that you are aware of the steps now being taken by the Chief Commissioner to secure that the assistance now definitely promised should be given on identical lines in Southern India. The matter is receiving his urgent and careful attention and as soon as a definite policy is agreed to it will be communicated to you.

I have the honour to be,
Sir.
Your most obedient Servant,
E. H. S. JAMES,
Major,
First Assistant Resident.

Letter No. 2484-D, dated the 26th February 1918, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 538, dated the 8th of February 1918, and to say that the Government of India have given the question of assistance to the coffee industry their careful attention and have also considered the representations made by a deputation from the United Planters' Association of Southern India which interviewed the Hon'ble Sir George Barnes on the 21st instant. I am to say that the proposals referred to in your letter No, 368 of the 28th of January to the Secretary to the Government of Madras as the "Tellicherry scheme" do not commend themselves to the Government of India as practicable. These proposals appear to have been based on the supposition that if Government purchased the unsold balance of the coffee crop, they would be in a better position to dispose of it than the planters themselves. This is not a view which the Government of India can accept. They have neither the organisation nor the practical experience necessary for successful disposal of the crop; nor would they be in a position to provide any more

freight for its carriage than is at present the case. The freight difficulty which the industry has experienced is due to the fact that every available ton of freight is required to carry exports of national importance, and the fact that Government themselves were the owners of a large stock of coffee would not enable them to overlook the claims to priority of articles of national importance. It appears to the Government of India that such assistance as is essential to the preservation of the industry can best be given in the form of *taccavi* loans, and I am to ask that you will consider the matter from this point of view and render such assistance to the industry as may appear to be necessary in individual cases. The Government of India will be prepared, if necessary, to supplement the allotments for *taccavi* loans at the disposal of the Madras and Coorg Governments, to the extent of not more than 10 lakhs of rupees for the two provinces together. The representatives of the Association who interviewed Sir George Barnes were anxious, that, if assistance took the form of *taccavi* loans, such loans should be advanced on the security of crops alread harvested and still to be harvested, rather than on the security of land. This is a matter which you will no doubt consider, and, while the Government of India have no recommendation to make on the point, they will raise no objection to the acceptance by you of any form of security which you may consider adequate.

(Copy)

V. N. MENON,
Manager, Coorg Secretariat.

Labour Department.

Emigration of coolies having been restricted by the Government of Madras, a number of men, who made their living by supplying labour at so much per head to Kanganies from overseas, find their occupation gone. Some of them have turned their attention to S. Indian Estates. I warn everybody against them. They may be known by the procedure they usually follow:—(i) They offer coolies not from their own village or its vicinity, but from other places, often far apart. (ii) They say they only want a small advance sufficient to cover railfares and travelling. (iii) They want to know what their own remuneration will be using the word "commission" generally. (iv) Their coolies are sometimes said to be willing to work for longer periods than usual, 2 years or so. (v) They want to deal direct with the Estate and not through the Labour Department or any other agency. (vi) They offer to pay a personal visit to the Estate, and sometimes do so without an invitation. (vii) If the Estate is in the South, they often say they have been working in some Northern District and vice versa.—(viii). In a personal interview they are most plausible. It is hardly worth while making any enquiries about such men, who give themselves away as above, but if any subscriber feels inclined to do so, he should make enquiries from the Labour Department before parting with a single rupee for visiting the Estate or for any other purpose.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

Bangalore,
20th March 1918.

COFFEE.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE QUANTITIES OF COFFEE IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM BOMBAY, FROM AND TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES DURING THE OFFICIAL YEARS 1914—15 TO 1916—17.

COUNTRIES.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1914—15.	1915—16.	1916—17.	1914—15.	1915—16.	1916—17.
British Empire—	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom ...	6	69	760	2	149	...
Aden and Dependencies ...	141	120	85	3,021	950	2
Bahrein Islands ...	...	...	...	1,933	1,977	13,640
Ceylon ...	...	1	57	...	...	...
Strait Settlements (including Labuan) ...	5,516	5,717	4,927	...	...	60
Mauritius and Dependencies...	...	...	...	1,528	1,326	114
Zanzibar and Pemba ...	...	...	...	1	...	...
East African Protectorate ...	...	94	1,833	...	...	...
Seychelles ...	...	...	...	236	199	315
Foreign Countries—						
Germany ...	453	...	...	...	...	...
Holland ...	...	90	...	...	...	...
France ...	...	613	...	1,882	4	3,576
Italy ...	...	...	...	1,643	1	...
Austria-Hungary ...	150	...	...	...	...	...
Turkey-Asiatic Red Sea ...	...	...	44	157	53	14
Turkey-Asiatic Persian Gulf...	4	...	...	1,872	2,924	11,718
Muskat Territory and Trucial Oman ...	14	52	...	7,677	7,597	13,230
Other Native States in Arabia ...	...	...	...	434	1,423	13,336
Persia ...	...	...	...	376	509	551
Java ...	...	184	2	1	...	...
China (exclusive of Hongkong and Macao) ...	...	2	...	...	1	783
Japan ...	...	...	...	39	22	6
Portuguese East Africa ...	...	10	...	...	...	...
German East Africa ...	78	...	...	3	...	...
Total...	6,362	6,952	7,708	20,805	17,135	57,345

MYSORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Circular Memo. No. 42. Bangalore, dated 16th March, 1918.

Copy of the above statement is forwarded, with compliments to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. for information.

For the Mysore Chamber of Commerce,
L. S. V. RAMA IYER,
Secretary.

STATEMENT SHOWING IMPORTS INTO AND EXPORTS FROM KARACHI OF COFFEE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS AND FROM APRIL TO FEBRUARY, 1918.

COUNTRIES.	1914—15.		1915—16.		1916—17.		1917—18. From April to February.	
Imports—	cwts	Rs.	cwts	Rs.	cwts.	Rs.	cwts.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	4	200	21	959	3	121	...	...
Aden and Dependencies ...	5	327	1	33	9	470	...	...
Zanzibar and Pemba.	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Germany ...	2	95	...	...	...	...	...	...
France ...	...	...	1	63	...	...	...	...
Java ...	56	2,070	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total...	67	2,692	23	1,058	12	591	52	2,686
Re-Exports Foreign Merchandise—								
Turkey Asiatic Persian Gulf ...	...	...	...	35	1	60	...	...
Muskat Territory and Trucial Oman ...	11	1,080	...	...	...	...	...	...
Persia ...	...	...	6	400	...	...	...	...
Total...	11	1,080	6	435	1	60	...	...
Export Indian Produce—								
United Kingdom ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...
Bahrein Islands ...	58	4,720	...	...	339	23,509	612	45,620
Ceylon ...	...	...	...	...	1	150	...	...
Mauritius and Dependencies ...	15	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	...
Turkey Asiatic Persian Gulf ...	6	403	...	...	63	5,700	855	57,575
Muskat T. and T. Oman ...	66	5,900	2	125	308	16,800	1,276	79,240
Other Native States in Arabia ...	...	...	160	5,580	303	9,917	251	22,210
Persia ...	12	678	...	...	11	680	55	2,025
Total...	157	12,901	162	5,705	1,025	56,764	3,049	2,06,670

MYSORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Circular Memo. No. 44. Bangalore, dated 20th March, 1918.

Copy of the above statement is forwarded, with compliments to the Secretary, U. P. A. Southern India, S. P. Bangalore for information.

For the Mysore Chamber of Commerce,
L. S. V. RAMA IYER,
Secretary.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association which are of general interest. We note with pleasure that Committees were formed to estimate coming crops when the Durbar issue their instructions on the *Taccavi* loans, so there will be no delay on the part of this Association in getting to work once the orders are received. It is most likely that the assistance of District Associations will be invoked and it would be as well if the North Mysore and Bababudin Planters' Associations set their machinery in motion and appointed their Committees.

We publish a portion of the Indian Tea Commissioners speech, at the Annual Meeting of the Indian Tea Association.

We have much pleasure in publishing Messrs. A. J. Saldanha & Son's, letter on the shortage of shipping to Bombay.

The Indian Tea Commissioner has forwarded us the copy of the following telegram dated March 19th from the Food Controller to himself:— "Number forty your hundred-and-three. You had better specificaliy contract for excess quantity under this Contract otherwise growers may possibly dispose of their tea in Calcutta market. Do not miss any available tonnage. Can arrange for shipment of considerably larger supplies from Southern India. London Controlled Companies Southern India have tendered about four million pounds excess."

The Chairman sends for publication the two following telegrams:—

1. Telegram dated 15th March from the Ceylon Association in London to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo:—"Referring to my cable of 15th February have you received sufficient encouragement to justify our approaching Colonial Office."

2. Telegram dated 19th March from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Colombo to the Ceylon Association in London, London:-" Estate Agents Association consider suggestion enforce restriction impracticable therefore deemed inadvisable approach Government."

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	70,000	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
Total Rs...	70,030	0	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the 51th Annual General Meeting held at the Travellers' Bungalow, Saklaspur, on March 21st, 1918.

PRESENT:—Messrs. C. Lake, (President), C. J. Hayward, (Vice-President), St. John Hunt, (Honorary Secretary), B. Krishna Singh, M. J. Woodbridge, H. F. Anderson, C. H. Godfrey, Thiselton Anderson. E. Q. Rutherford, E. V. Hunt, F. M. Hamilton, W. Galiffe.

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 20th December 1917 and Extraordinary General Meeting on 31st January, 1918, were read and confirmed.

The Honorary Secretary's Report was read:—"Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Gentlemen.—I beg to submit the Annual Report and Accounts of the Association for the year ending 31st March, 1918.

"At the close of last season our Association represented 6,672 acres. During the current year two estates representing 262 acres resigned, four estates totalling 420 acres joined and one increased its acreage by 60 acres, thus at the close of the season under review 6,890 acres comprise the total acreage subscribing.

"PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP remains the same as last season *viz.* two members.

"PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND. Sixteen members subscribe against 18 last season. Rs.160 have been remitted to the Secretary of this Fund.

"SUBSCRIPTION. The amount payable was As. 4 per acre. All subscriptions have been paid.

"ACCOUNTS. These are laid on the table for inspection and audit and speak for themselves.

"Including this the Annual Meeting, there were four General Meetings held and two Extraordinary General Meetings, all were well attended.

"The work of the Association has greatly increassd owing to the strenuous times we are passing through and our worthy President has spared himself no pains in the execution of the arduous duties that develoved on him. I will briefly review what has been done during the year.

"Your Delegates to the U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting brought forward the following subjects:—(1) Land Tenure and Title Deeds in Mysore. This matter is still before the Government and final decision is awaited. (2) Hassan-Mangalore Railway. The resolution passed was 'That this Association, after considering the report of Mr. Richards the late Engineer-in-Chief, Mysore and West Coast Railway Survey, is of opinion that the Hassan-Mangalore Railway project demands more attention and regrets that the Planters' opinions have received so little consideration." Subsequently two of our members interviewed His Excellency the Governor of Madras at Mangalore on the matter, the out-come being that nothing further could be

done until the War was at an end. At the same time the subject of Finance was also discussed but nothing tangible could be settled. (3) A Form of Contract for Sale of Coffee in India. Three Coffee Planters were elected to draw up a Form in conjunction with the Curers on the Coast, this I understand has neared completion and will be in order for next season. (3 B.) Fixing by Government of a minimum rate of sale for Havre Standard Coffee in India. This matter was withdrawn by your Delegates after discusssion in Committee. (3 C.) Approach the Military re a Coffee ration. You will have seen in the *Planters' Chronicle* the military are rationing coffee and tenders have been sent in.

"Our Delegate to the Dasserah Representative Assembly brought up the matter of (1) Roads. (2) Land Tenure and Title Deeds in Mysore. With regard to the former, Government have sanctioned additional funds, but difficulty is experienced in finding contractors to take up the work on account of the rates being inadequate. Regarding Land Tenure and Title Deeds as aforesaid, the matter is under consideration.

"RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I. This subject is again on the Agenda to-day. The Resolution passed at a previous meeting being 'The members of this Association are prepared to give their support to the proposed re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. on condition that the Labour Department be thoroughly re-organised some-what on the lines suggested by the S. M. P. A. delegates at the last U. P. A. Meeting, *i.e.* that local agencies be made more efficient and less money spent at head-quarters."

"GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF COFFEE SCHEME.—At the request of the U. P. A. S. A. I. Messrs. Lake and Mahon with the assistance of representatives of several of the West Coast Curing Firms, drew up a scheme at Tellicherry in December last, this was submitted to Government through the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. Messrs. Tipping and Lake went to Delhi in this connection bnt I regret to say the scheme was not considered feasible by Government who have put forward the alternative proposal of Takkavi loans, and this is how the matter stands at present.

"In concluding I have to thank the Chairman, and Vice-Chairman for their help and support in the discharge of my duties and I beg to place my resignation in your hands."

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—When we look back on the past twelve months we find that all other matters so far as Coffee is concerned have been overshadowed by the ever increasing anxiety we have been put to by the lack of Tonnage and facilities for Transport and by the consequent restriction in Markets for the sale of our Produce.

All other matters have had to be put in the background for the present, and rightly so, for unless we can sell our coffee we cannot carry on the Industry.

Our troubles, so far as we can see at present, are not likely to grow less for some time to come; indeed they may and probably will, increase. They are the outcome of the War and will last until peace is declared or at any rate until shipping becomes more plentiful.

While seeking by every legitimate means to find relief sufficient to keep us from disaster, we have no wish to shirk our share of the burden which is being so cheerfully borne by everyone in all parts of the British Empire. As Punch, in a recent clever Cartoon describing a message from our Soldiers and Sailors to all at Home puts it, we have got to "Stick it" and

stick it we will, fully recognising that any hardships we may be suffering from are as nothing compared with the hardships and dangers which are the daily lot of those who are fighting for us by land and sea.

Meanwhile the U.P.A.S.I. have spared no trouble or expense in putting before Government the seriousness of the situation and the urgent necessity of giving speedy assistance to enable Planters to tide over their difficulties. Although the Tellicherry Scheme was not accepted by Government, its presentation had the effect of showing them the straits we are in, and if the measures proposed in the Governments Notes on the interview which took place at Delhi are adopted we shall, at any rate, be able to carry on.

It is essential, however, that these proposals are put into force at the earliest possible date as at this time of the year cash is required to pay off coolies and to make arrangements for next year's supply. So far as we in Mysore are concerned, we have the assurance of the Durbar that whatever policy the Government of India adopt will be followed by them and from correspondence already received it is evident that the matter is having their active attention.

In my interview with Mr A. R. Bannerji I. C. S. C. I. E. I was able to explain that so far as our Association was concerned, we would appoint members to visit and estimate the coming crops on the Estates of those members requiring assistance and I trust you will arrange for this to be done when the matter comes up before you today.

We further have to thank the Government of India for prohibiting the import of coffee into India and also for arranging for coffee to be issued as a ration to the troops both of which will help to dispose of some of our unsold stocks.

But, Gentlemen, while Government are doing all they can to help us, we must not neglect to help ourselves. Coffee is selling in northern India at Re. 1/2 & 1/4 a pound in the raw and there is no doubt that steps should be taken at once to establish Agencies in the north in order to put the Planter in direct touch with the Consumer.

With a view to making a start in this direction Mr Tipping and myself have suggested to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. the advisability of advertising S. Indian coffee in all the leading papers in India and the appointment of one or more of the Coast Agents, who are not buyers themselves, to receive and execute orders.

This matter is worth the immediate attention of the U. P. A. S.I and will, I hope, receive it. Once a direct connection is made with consumers in the north there should be little difficulty in finding an Agent there to do business for us.

With regard to the Re-organisation of the U. P. A, S I. and the Labour Department I am glad to see that the "Powers that be" are at last "getting a move on". A meeting of the Control Committee is to take place in April to consider "the whole question of the future" and until the result of this meeting is made known there is little use is further discussing the matter.

With a few exceptions, the past seasons crop has been a poor one but the promise for the coming year, in spite of unseasonable rain in January, is distinctly good and will, I trust, be realised.

The opening of the Mysore-Arsikere Railway at the beginning of the year has been of great benefit to the Hassan District and has brought our Estates some thirty miles nearer to the railway than before. Now that Hassan is our nearest station, it is to be hoped that a Motor Service may be started from there to Saklaspur in the near future.

With one or two exceptions I am glad to be able to report considerable improvement in the roads in the Hassan District. They still leave a lot to be desired from a motorist's point of view but if the Government scheme for the control of the funds allotted for repairs of District roads is put into force we may expect to see greater improvement in the future.

I feel sure you will all join me in heartily congratulating Major W. L. Crawford, D. S. O. on the honour that has been recently bestowed upon him, and which I am sure he thoroughly deserved.

We shall look forward to giving him and the others who have left us to join the Army, a hearty welcome back to the District after they have won the War and may that day be soon.

This being the first opportunity I have had of doing so, I would like also to congratulate Sir E. F. Barber on the honour that has been bestowed upon him. It is an honour we are proud to feel we have a share in and also a token of the increased interest Government is taking nowadays in Planting affairs.

I also wish to thank the Chairman and Executive of the U. P. A. S. I. for all the work they have done on our behalf during the past year which has probably been the most strenuous one in the history of the Parent Association.

Your Honorary Secretary has dealt with all other matters of interest to the Association so it is not necessary for me to take up more of your time.

I will conclude, Gentlemen, by thanking you for the honour you have done me in making me your President again during the past year. In any work I have been able to do I have been largely helped by the advice and assistance of the Vice-President and Honorary Secretary, to both of whom my thanks are due, and also to you, Gentlemen, for the way you have attended all the Meetings during the year.

I now beg to place my resignation in your hands.

ACCOUNTS.—These were laid on the table and audited by Messrs. Hamilton and T. Anderson and found correct and passed.

Mr. Godfrey proposed and Mr. B. Krishna Singh seconded the following resolution which was carried unanimously:—"That the members of this Association do hereby put on record their grateful appreciation of the services which Messrs. C. Lake, P. G. Tipping and J. G. Hamilton have undertaken for them in the effort to obtain help from Government to enable the Coffee Industry to tide over its present difficulties which endeavour they have made at the cost of very considerable self-sacrifice and carried out with an ability and determination for which the members must ever remain extremely indebted."

Mr. Lake thanked Mr. Godfrey and the members on behalf of Messrs. P. G. Tipping, J. G. Hamilton and himself for the kind way in which they had acknowledged their services and said he himself was at any time only too pleased to do what he could to further the interests of the Association.

MARKETS AND COFFEE DIFFICULTIES.—Mr. Lake gave a full account of what had transpired at interviews with officials in the following speech:—

Gentlemen,—I have little more to add to what I said in my address. One matter, however, I wish to explain and that is the reason why we felt obliged to reduce the price for the coffee asked for by the Army to Rs.45

per cwt. We interviewed the Q. M.G. on the morning of February 20th and on being questioned we told him that it would be better if he purchased matured (*i. e.* last season) coffee for immediate consumption by the troops.

He asked us what would be the lowest price we would accept for this and we, seeing that we were about to offer the whole of our unsold stocks of matured and new coffee to Government at Rs. 40 per cwt. and that this fact would be known to the Q. M. G. considered it inadvisable to ask for more than Rs. 45 even though a higher figure had been suggested by Col. Nicholson. The Q. M. G. agreed to this price and said he would wire his order for 100 tons to the Secretary. U. P. A. by noon that day. This, however, he failed to do and on our return to Bangalore we sent him through the Secretary U.P.A.S.I. an urgent wire of reminder. Unfortunately, and this I very much regret, we failed at the time to mention the fact to the Secretary, U. P, A. S. I. that we had felt it necessary to reduce the price. This was owing to the very short time we had to get out our report and also to high pressure of work on my return to the Estate but I do not wish to put this in as an excuse. The matter has been put right some time ago now but it undoubtedly led, at the time, to some delay and confusion for which I can only express my regret. It must be clearly understood, however, that we interviewed the Q. M. G. at Delhi with the full authority of the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. to settle the matter as quickly as possible and in the best way we could.

It is a pity that many offers have been sent in to A. H. Q. privately and at lower prices to those quoted by us at Delhi. It is likely to lead them to think the U. P. A. are asking a higher price than they should, which is not the case. We must combine in this matter. The Secretary of the U. P. A. is doing all he can to put it through and we must leave it to him to act for us all.

Regarding *Taccavi Loans* in Mysore State a considerable sum is being allotted by Government for this purpose at once and it only now remains to arrive at the final arrangements for giving them out.

It is essential that the methods adopted in Madras, Coorg and Mysore should be the same and for the purpose of arranging this it is proposed to call a meeting at an early date at which the Resident and representatives of the Governments concerned and also representatives of the U. P. A. S. I. are to be present and it is to be hoped that the matter will then be finally settled.

If the Mysore Government agree to leave the fixing of the amounts to be given to individual European planters to the District Associations concerned, as it is proposed they should do, it will be up to us to do all in our power to safeguard Government interests when advising them as to the amount of each loan. It will be necessary to keep the amount of each loan asked for as low as possible to enable the sum allotted to go round.

In some cases it will probably be found that members have sufficient funds to carry them on for another year and in many cases only partial assistance will be required. It should also be clearly understood that we are expected to use up all our own resources before we ask for Government assistance.

If Government are prepared to trust us to administer these loans we must be very careful to see that the trust is not misplaced and that we do not let them down. I hope you will consider this matter carefully.

In connection with the above the following questions were put to the Chair and it was suggested that in the event of a meeting being convened in Bangalore it is desirable that they be put before it:—

1. When are Government likely to be able to supply funds.
2. On what terms as regards security, interest and repayment of loan.
3. What would be the position as regards old indebtedness.
4. Would Government consider the question of giving a block loan against harvested coffee towards repayment of old indebtedness.
5. Through what channel is it proposed to grant these loans.
6. Are the advisory committee to include harvested crops when advising.
7. Do Government propose to draw up a special form of bond for granting these loans.

The following methods were decided upon to determine the amounts of loans to be issued to members of this Association:

The following two committees were elected to estimate crops and advise amount of loans to be granted by Government:

Messrs. C. H. Godfrey, F. M. Hamilton and St. John Hunt for the Mudigere side.

Messrs. C. J. Hayward. C. Lake and M. J. Woodbridge for the Saklaspur side.

A member requiring assistance shall apply direct to the nearest member of his committee asking him to arrange a date to visit him.

Visits to estates shall consist of not less than two members of the above committee.

The reports made out by the Committee after a visit shall be sent in to the Honorary Secretary of the S. M. P. A. for his and the President's signature and copies of the report shall then be sent to the Officer appointed by Government to issue the loans and to the applicant. A further copy shall be retained by the Association.

That in the event of European non-members of the Association applying to the Association to estimate crop and report the Association shall undertake to do it.

In the event of the Mysore Durbar requesting this Association to estimates crops for Indian Planters who are non-members this Association is willing to ascertain if any members would undertake such work for a fee of 8 annas per cultivated acre plus 8 annas per mile T. A. with a minimum of Rs. 25.

All applicants for loans must be prepared to show to the visiting Committee a certificate stating the amount of coffee held by their coast Agent.

That this Association do bind themselves to abide by the decisions of the above Committees as regards estimates of their crops and the amount of financial help to be given them.

The following application form was suggested:—

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR GOVERNMENT LOAN.—

Name of Estate.
Name of Proprietor.
Name of Manager.
Mortgages or other liens on the property.
Amount of Coffee in Agents hands.
Estimated crop on trees.
Total amount of loan recommended Rs.

MONTHLY REQUIREMENTS—

	Rs. A. P.
January ...	...
February ...	...
March ...	...
April ...	...
May ...	...
June ...	...
July ...	...
August ...	...
September ...	...
October ...	...
November ...	...
December ...	...

Signature of Applicant.

Do. President, S. M. P. A.

Do. Honorary Secretary, S. M. P. A.

The following telegram received from the Secretary of the U. P. A. during the meeting was read out: "Army purchase accepted one hundred tons supply officer drawing up agreement."

This was noted with satisfaction.

TONNAGE FOR COFFEE.—Mr. Hayward spoke as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—A rumour has reached me that certain Agents of the West Coast are buying and curing large quantities of coffee, if this is so it suggests that information is available that tonnage is probable in the near future.

If such is the case I consider this information should be made public at once so that Planters get the full benefit and are not induced to sell their coffee at unremunerative prices to benefit profiteers.

Mr. H. F. Anderson also said: Gentlemen, There are rumours that we are to get tonnage to a small extent for the shipment of our coffee. Government has been kind enough to remove certain restrictions which were imposed. The question of ships is still acute. Whatever we may get in the shape of tonnage we want to use to the best advantage. From our point of view the producer should have the first call. As things at present stand, I feel it will be a case of the devil catch the hindmost. We want to be in the race and not in the list of "also ran." At present, on the coast, the coffee market does not exist, we are being squeezed to death, it behoves us to move in the matter immediately to urge the Controller of shipping or his agent to issue an order preventing coffee which has changed hands being shipped prior to the stocks at present in the producers hands.

Take a case as follows:—There is space on a ship for 50 tons. I have that amount in hand. An agent has also the same quantity. This Agent by the way may be a buyer, seller and curer, as well as the agent for the shipping and insurance companies, am I to believe that mine will get the preference? I fear that the carts taking my lot to the wharf will have their axles broken, or that the coolies handling my crop will develop a severe form of ague and that I will be informed that owing to circumstances beyond the control of the agent my coffee was unavoidably blocked out, he will not

let me know if his little lot of 50 tons has gone. The buyer on the Coast may be partner in a firm which was described in a circular lately received as a "Looti Compani." In any case he is not trying to make a living, but, he is out to make a fortune and in many cases succeeds in doing so, he buys at rockbottom and sells at top prices.

Government at home has appointed certain persons to control the purchase of produce. Buyers in second and subsequent deals have had their contracts torn up. In times of peace they are known as traders, at present they come under the heading of profiteering, quite a nasty gang, they are of no more use to us than a headache. I have the pleasure to propose. That we at once approach the Controller of Shipping and request him to issue an order to the effect that in the event of any tonnage being avallable coffee in producers hands has prior claim to any other.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Hayward and seconded by Mr. Anderson and carried unanimously: "That the U. P. A. S. I. be requested to ask the Government to publish all information about tonnage concessions for coffee immediately such information is received and that preference shall in all cases be given to coffee in first hands, *i.e.*, coffee in the hands of planters."

It was decided to ask the U. P. A. S. I, to send copies of the proposers and seconders speech with the resolution, to Representative of Shipping Controller and Sir George Branes.

The subject of advertising coffee, was then brought up and Mr. F. M. Hamilton addressed the Meeting as follows:—

We as a community are blamed for not doing our best to help ourselves by making all we can of the Indian coffee market.

We are accused of sitting down and expecting Government to do everything for us, in fact we are said to be a spoon-fed community. Until lately we have always relied on our agents in England and on the Coast. We must now try to walk a little and feed ourselves. English agents however willing can do little or nothing and our Coast agents are hampered by being surrounded by speculators who are only willing to buy at ruinous prices. Why should we not try to get hold of the Indian market by direct trade. By starting in a small way we minght form the nucleus of a business with agents all over the country. I would suggest that the coffee planters of Southern India do start advertising in all the important newspapers throughout India and that we do so through the U. P. A. S. I. who might be asked to appoint as agent some one in Mangalore who would carry on the work of forwarding coffee to any purchasers. I propose therefore "That the U. P. A. S. I. be asked to appoint an agent in Mangalore and to put an advertisement in all papers of importance. I suggest the following advertisement.

SOUTH INDIAN COFFEE.

In lots of 10 lbs. and upwards.

Good quality raw coffee.

Flat berry 10 annas a lb.

Peaberry 12 annas a lb.

Delivered V. P. post free to any address in India.

All expenses in any case to be charged to the coffee associations in a proportion to be fixed and the U. P. A. S. I. Secretary be asked to forward copy of the resolution to all associations interested in coffee and ask them for their support."

Resolution seconded by Mr. C. J. Hayward and carried unanimously.

Mr. C. H. Godfrey then said he wished to propose the following resolution :—" That in view of the fact that the Government have appointed or have decided immediately to appoint a Trade Commissioner at Bombay, the U. P. A. S. I. be called upon to move for immediate detailed returns through the said Commissioner as to the disposal of the current coffee crop as far as such crop passes through Bombay." This was seconded by Mr. F. M. Hamilton and carried.

ASSOCIATION RULES.—Mr. Lake on this subject spoke as follows :—

Gentlemen,—Before any proposition on this subject is laid before you I wish to remind you that the official name of this Association is the South Mysore European Planters' Association and while it is the greatest pleasure to us to welcome those Indian friends who have already been elected to membership among us the fact undoubtedly remains that if we largely increase Indian membership we shall be in danger of losing our name and our identity. In discussing the matter this fact must not be lost sight of. Owing to the War and other causes we are for the time being a small body of Europeans in this District and this fact should make us all the more careful to safeguard our interests as Europeans. The South Mysore Indian Planters' Association was, in the old days, a strong body and sent its representatives to the U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meetings. It has now, apparently, ceased to exist. This is a great pity as there seems no reason why Indian Planters' in S. Mysore should not form their own Association and also be affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. if they wish to. I am open to correction but believe there is no rule against this being done and I would like to suggest this to our many Indian planter friends for their consideration. It would benefit both them and us in many ways which are obvious and, in my opinion, is the best way out of the difficulty which has arisen so far as we are concerned.

Mr. Rutherford also said :—In order to meet the wishes of Indian Gentlemen who are desirous of joining this Association it is proposed to alter the Rules so as to permit them being admitted as Honorory Members, as under the present Rules and its European Constitution there is now no such provision.

I therefore propose that Rule No. 11 shall be altered so as to read as follows :—

" Government and U. P. A. S. I. officers and Indian Gentlemen may on being proposed and seconded by two members of the Executive of the Association, became Honorary Members of the Association without the usual ballot. Honorary Members shall not be eligible to serve on the Executive of the Association, or vote at a Meeting nor at the ballot for election of members, or be appointed as Delegates to represent the Association. They will not be liable to an acreage assessment, but on election will be charged with an Annual Subscription of Rs. 10 payable in advance, if they are resident within the sphere of influence of this Association."

Mr. Hamilton seconded by Mr. Woodbridge moved the following amendment :—" That Rule II be altered and read as follows :—'That all European Proprietors, Managers and Superintendents shall be eligible for membership and that Indian planters cultivating 100 acres or more may be elected members by a unanimous vote at the meeting at which their names are proposed.' Rule IV shall be altered to read as follows :—'The subscription shall be 4 annas per acre, etc., etc.' "

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U.P.A.S.I.—Mr. Lake spoke as follows:—Gentlemen, all the papers I have, including a copy of the Labour Department Accounts to be seen by subscribers only, are before you and from them you will see that a Meeting is being held by the Central Committee next month to arrange a scheme of re-organixation of the U. P. A. S. I. and Labour Deparment.

It will not be an easy matter. The many and varied letters in the *Chronicle* recently have shown this but I think we may confidently leave the matter in their hands. It will probably be found that, exclusive of the cost ot the special Mycologist for the Rubber Industry, an all in subscription of about Re. 1-4 per acre will suffice and if this should be the case, Gentlemen, I can only reiterate my hopes that you will plank once for all for UNITY and that there will not be found any in this Association who will place their private interests before those of the community as a whole.

It is only by our holding together that successful results will be achieved and it is only by re-organisation on business lines that the U. P. A. S. I. can be made a more powerful body and of more use to us all individually.

The matter was discussed and it was decided to await the outcome of the meeting to be held on 13th April by the Control Committee and executive, the result of which it is hoped will be circulated at once.

Letter from Secretary to Mysore Government to Dusserah Delegates *re* roads.—This matter was postponed to the next meeting.

ASSISTANT SCIENTIFIC OFFICER FUND.—Mr. Woodbridge's letter and account was laid on the table. It was decided to ask the Secretary U. P. A. S. I. to remit to the Honorary Secretary our quota of the balance in hand and that this sum should be credited to the Association funds.

SIR E. F. BARBER AND THE S. M. P. A.—The Association thank Sir E. F. Barber for his letter and accept his explanation.

Mr. E. W. Rutherford's report, as our representative at the Hassan District Conference, was read and our thanks to him were recorded.

OFFICERS ON LEAVE AS GUESTS IN PLANTING DISTRICTS.—Names of those present who were willing to entertain guests were obtained and the Honorary Secretary was requested to forward same to the Secretary U. P. A. S. I.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.—Mr. Hayward addressed the meeting as follows:—

Gentlemen, the past year has been a very strenuous one for the Honorary Secretary and I propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hunt for the capable way he has filled the office and I sincerely trust that Messrs. Lake and Hunt will see their way to carry on for another year, the more so as they have full knowledge of several most important matters which are in course of formation.

The following gentlemen were unanmously elected:—

C. Lake	...	President.
St. John Hunt	...	Vice-President.
C. J. Hayward	...	Honorary Secretary.

The Meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) C. LAKE,
President, S. M. P. A.
(„) C. J. HAYWARD,
Honorary Secretary, S.M.P.A.

TEA.

The Tea Commissioner's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Indian Tea Association.

Colonel Kennedy, Chairman of the Assam Labour Board and Tea Commissioner, said:—I must first thank your General Committee for so kindly inviting me to attend to-day's meeting, and for giving me the opportunity of saying a few words.

Dealing with matters appertaining to the Assam Labour Board, I beg to endorse all that your Chairman has said in regard to recruitment of labour during the past year. The results have undoubtedly been disappointing to us, The number of emigrants recruited, especially during the latter portion of 1917, was comparatively very small. This is no doubt largely due to the extensive recruitment of the labouring classes by Government for war purposes. Apart from this cause, however, the fact that very few garden sirdars were sent down to recruit has also been responsible for the poor results. It is scarcely necessary to say that unless sirdars are sent down a supply of coolies cannot be expected. The reluctance to depute sirdars to the recruiting districts was, I understand, due partly to the uncertain financial position of the tea industry last year, and partly to the apprehension that, owing to the competition of recruitment for Labour Corps, the sirdars were not likely to meet with much success, and might not even themselves return to the gardens. Owing to the Food Controller's arrangements for the purchase in India of tea for the United Kingdom, the prospects of the tea indnstry are more assured. Local Governments, also, have not interfered with recruitment for Assam tea gardens and Government Recruiting Officers have agreed not to enlist tea garden sirdars. There is, therefore, no reason why recruitment should not be resumed, at any rate to a modified extent, and I am glad to say that in the past month or two there has been a great improvement in the numbers of sirdars sent down and of coolies recruited. We do not at all wish to interfere in any way with recruitment for war purposes, but it is essential, especially with a view to the future, if the labour supply is to be maintained that estates should keep up their connection with the recruiting districts, even at the risk of the loss of some sirdars, as a connection once severed is not easily re-established, and coolies in Assam would become discontented if precluded from visiting their old homes. It is needless to say that a large proportion of their recruits consists of women and children, and of men and boys who would be unsuitable for war work.

Your Chairman has referred to the proposals for the opening of the Godavari Agency Tracts to recruitment. The extension of recruitment in the Madras Agency Tracts was a subject in which Mr. Davies, who acted as Chairman of the Board during my absence in England last year, and who is himself a Madras Officer, took much interest, and he made proposals in the matter to the Agents to the Governor in Godavari and Vizagapatam, and I hope shortly to be in a position to make similar proposals regarding the provision of extended facilities for recruitment in the Ganjam Agency Tracts.

So far as abuses in recruitment are concerned, I am glad to be able to inform you that, from the information at the disposal of the Board, there is practically now no organised illegal recruitment by arkatties. There are sporadic attempts, here and there, on the part of a few individuals to supply coolies on payment, but they meet on the whole with poor success, and generally end in detection. The game now is so risky that it is scarcely worth the candle,

Tea Control Scheme.

As regards the Food Controller's tea purchase scheme, your Chairman has been good enough to say that it has been started expeditously. The credit for this result is, however, due more to the assistance afforded me on all sides, and more especially by my Advisory and Expert Committees than to any efforts of mine. It was with the greatest reluctance that I undertook the duties of Tea Commissioner, as the work was quite new to me, but I was encouraged by the assurance of the assistance of the Indian Tea Association, and that promise has been more than fulfilled. I also wish to acknowledge the cordial way in which I have been met by the Liners' Conference, the Port Commissioners, the Inland Steamer Companies, and the Exchange Banks. Shippers, too, have been most forbearing, Owing to the fact that the scheme had to be started at a very short notice, before all the details had been properly worked out I, am afraid that they have often beeu put to considerable inconvenience. We heve had, however, to meet difficulties as they arose to the best of our ability. The very heavy shipments of tea during the past two-and-a-half months have been a strain on every one concerned, particularly as tea has had frequently to be loaded at very short notice. Things are easier now, but a perennial difficulty is that of shipping the tea chests in good condition. Fortunately this difficulty is confined to Calcutta, and does not extend to Chittagong, or the Southern India ports and in Calcutta it appers to be due mainly to the extra handling which the chests receive. Steps have been taken to improve the handling in Calcutta, and things are much better now. Though the handling is mainly responsible for the damage to chests, in some cases the latter are not sufficiently strong, or are badly put together. I am well aware that owing to war conditions concerns find it increasingly hard to obtain a supply of good chests. And that this trouble is likely to be greater next season, I am, also aware that practically the whole of the Southern India crop had been manufactured and packed before the Food Controller's scheme was introduced. It is, however very necessary that the tea should arrive Home in good condition, and I would ask your Association to impress on your members the necessity for seeing that chests are strong and properly put together and closed. Over-packing should be avoided and in the case of country made chests corner pieces should be provided and the hoop iron round the chests should be tightly strained and not as I have noticed in some cases, loosely nailed on in festoons. The tea lead used must also be of an adequte weight. As you are aware, the Food Controller has directed that in future no chests should be accepted for which the Steamer Company will not give a clear Bill of Lading.

25 Million Lbs. More.

I may mention a matter regarding which there is still considerable uncertainty, and that this is the quantity of tea over the 40 per cent. which the Food Controller will take. I frequently receive from Tea Agency Houses and Shipping Firms tenders of tea in excess of the 40 per cent. on behalf both of Home controlled and Indian controlled concerns, and they are naturally anxious to know the quantity which will be taken. I have hitherto not been able to give them a definite reply, but I have lately been authorised by the Food Controller to arrange for an additional twenty-five million pounds of tea, which is to be taken from both Home and Indian controlled concerns. It is not quite clear, however, whether this quantity is in excess of the 140 millions originally to be contracted for, or whether quantities in excess of 40 per cent. tendered against shortages of the 40 per cent. are to be included in the twenty-five millions. I have cabled for instructions on this point and hope soon to be in a position to say

how much will be taken in excess of the original quantity. Up to the present, when sufficient tea within the 40 per cent. has not been available to fill the tonnage provided I have distributed the excess quantity required among shippers as far as possible, on the basis of past production. I trust, however, that things will now be put upon a more satisfactory basis. There is still a considerable quantity of tea within the 40 per cent. on the gardens or intransit, it being difficult to get the teas down owing to congestion of traffic on the rail and river routes, and to want of accommodation in Calcutta. Teas within the 40 per cent. ready for shipment will, of course, have a preferential claim to space over teas which have been accepted above the 40 per cent. limit.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I regret that some shippers have been inconvenienced owing to the fact that the Exchange Banks were unable to negotiate their bills for the value of teas shipped before the departure of the last English Mail. The matter has been reported to the Food Controller, who, I hope, will be able to make arrangements for payment which will be satisfactory to shippers.—*Indian Tea Association Report.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Bolloor Coffee Works,
Mangalore, 23rd March, 1918.

Space Shortage in Ships to Bombay.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary U. P. A. S. I.,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—May we beg to draw your kind attention to that portion of our Circular of date which refers to space shortage for coffee in Coasters for Bombay. It is a very serious difficulty, inasmuch as buyers are getting very nervous about purchasing anything, even at the low prices obtaining. Time is quickly slipping by—we have only one steamer, the s.s. "Netravatti" now paying between Bombay and Mangalore and, although she must be credited with performing quickly enough her continual double trips, she cannot put in many more calls here before our port closes for the monsoon. Reckoning ten days as the interval between her two successive calls at Mangalore, she may be expected to do about six voyages in all, which is scarcely anything judging by the small amount of space she can spare for coffee alone on each sailing from Mangalore.

We would suggest that your Association do your best to induce the Authorities that be to fix one or two small special steamers for coffee only, at convenient intervals between now and the end of the season, or better, between end March and end April, as later on Arabs are in a hurry to return to their country. That such steamers would be fixed and their probable dates of call here would, however, have to be announced early, so as to give an impetus to buyers to operate freely, with the assurance that they will able to ship.

We hope your Association will be pleased to move in the matter promptly, as there is no time to lose.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
A. J. SALDANHA & SONS.

P.S.—If you think it would serve any useful purpose your publishing the above letter in the *Planters' Chronicle* we should be much obliged by your kindly doing so.

A. J. S. & SONS.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the minutes of a quarterly general meeting of the Coorg Planters' Association.

We publish the proceedings of a committee meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association and the proceedings of a general meeting of the Wynaad Planters' Association.

Mr. Martin writes besides speaking, on the subject of coffee markets.

Mr. Waddington contributes a letter on Labour Rules with special reference to one passed by the Anamalai Planters' Association. Subscribers to the Labour Department should not hesitate to send in their names.

We publish a letter from the Assistant Tea Commissioner addressed to all Estates and Firms Shipping Tea to the United Kingdom consigned to the Food Controller.

The remainder of this issue is taken up with the formation of the South Indian Association in London, and we have no hesitation in publishing the whole series of letters that came by one mail, giving the history of its formation from the commencement.

The Manager of the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, asks us to publish the fact that he has received a wire from his London Office that the Director's will recommend payment of a final dividend of 6% making 12% for the year also a bonus of 2% both less income tax. They will also recommend that £50,000 be placed to Reserve Fund and £58,000/- be carried forward.

The Honorary Secretary, Bangalore Soldiers' Aid Committee asks us to publish the following names of subscribers and to thank them for their contribution :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
C. Lake, Esq.	25	0	0
R. Ainsworth, Esq.	25	0	0
E. W. Rutherford, Esq.	100	0	0
David Elkington, Esq.	50	0	0
R. Lescher, Esq.	10	0	0
E. C. Bolton, Esq.	10	0	0
B. Malcolm, Esq.	50	0	0
C. C. R. Fowke, Esq.	12	0	0
Total Rs...	282	0	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Coorg Planters' Association.

Minutes of a Quarterly General Meeting, held at the Bamboo Club, Pollibetta, on the 26th March, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. G. K. Martin (President in the Chair), H. W. Sheldrick, A. F. Magniac, W. R. Wright, L. Newcome, A. H. Jackson, R. Hamilton, F. W. Gerard, H. T. Shaw, W. A. F. Bracken, N. M. Scholfield, G. R. Pearse, H. M. Mann, A. B. Chengappa, P. G. Tipping, J. W. Irwin, W. L. Jeffreys, W. M. Ball, F. Macrae, E. L. Mahon and A. J. Wright (Honorary Secretary).

Before opening the meeting the President moved a vote of condolence to the relatives of Mr. Newbery. He said:—"We have to deplore the loss of yet another member of our small community, another victim of this hateful war in the late G. L. Newbery, poor cheery little Newbery. An appreciation has appeared in the *Madras Mail*. Let us hope it will be of some comfort to his people that he was appreciated and his untimely end deplored."

This was passed all standing.

The notice convening the Meeting was read, and minutes of last meeting were taken as read.

DISTRICT BOARD.—Papers were opened, and Mr. A. H. Jackson, for South and Mr. W. M. Ball for North Coorg, were elected. Both gentlemen expressed the honour done them. Mr. Macrae, seconded by Mr. Bracken, proposed a vote of thanks to them for their services in the past.—Carried.

THE ARMY COFFEE PURCHASE CONTRACT.—The President, on behalf of the Association, respectfully thanked H. E. The Commander-in-Chief in India, through whose kindly action the contract for the supply of coffee for issue as rations to the Army in India was initiated. This contract was not so large as we at one time hoped. The Authorities appeared to be somewhat sceptical as to whether the British Troops, to whom alone this coffee was to be issued at present, would appreciate it; therefore the continuation of the contract was doubtful.

The President hoped, however, the time was not far distant when the Native Army (who would really appreciate the beverage) would also be supplied with coffee, in which case the contract could be considerably increased and become of substantial and lasting benefit to our Industry. As it was, he did not think it would pay to sell such small quantities as would be apportioned to each Planter, at such low prices, especially with the present element of uncertainty attached to the Contract.

Mr. Martin went on to instance a case where an individual seller would—if he will not actually be a loser—derive no benefit from it. There had been a misunderstanding as to the quality of coffee that would be taken. At one time "Native," garbled to Havre Standard was said to be acceptable, at another "Plantation," graded to a special standard.

Continuing, the President said—"It was decided, quite rightly, that old stock should be disposed of first and therefore a reduction in the price was considered justifiable. It did not seem to occur to those handling the matter that matured coffee was far preferable to new for drinking purposes, and as only a small quantity was said to be required at present, a full price might have been asked and paid for the same. This was not an ordinary commercial transaction where colour, appearance and quality determined the price. A sound drinking coffee was all that was wanted, and good matured "Native" would quite well have answered the purpose, and was well worth a full price."

Had a larger amount been required, no doubt the reduce price might have been justifiable even for Plantation, on the principle of the larger the sale, the lower the price."

The President continued to give the history of the correspondence till the time Messrs. Lake and Tipping arrived at Bangalore on their way to Delhi, and then called on Mr. Tipping to carry on the tale.

Mr. Tipping addressing the Meeting, spoke of the Delegates' interview with the Q. M. G., when it was understood that "Native" coffee garbled to Havre Standard would be accepted for the Troops. As regards the difference in price the 8 odd annas per pound were offered by the 9th Division. This was altered and the Q. M. G. said he was buying for the whole Army. He asked our Delegates to quote a price, and the Rs 45 per cwt. was fixed and accepted. It should here be stated that the Delegates went to this interview at the suggestion and with the authority of the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. to do their best for coffee interests and to fix a price. The delay in the U. P. A. S. I. receiving information was owing to the Q. M. G. forgetting to wire that day as arranged. This was rectified only after the Delegates returned to Bangalore.

Mr. Tipping then gave a resumé of his interview with Sir George Barnes whom he found most sympathetic and willing to do what he could for Planters. Sir George, however, declined to accept the proposed Government Coffee Purchase Scheme as one likely to cause dissatisfaction among producers of other crops and be a cause of embarrassment and expense to the Indian Government.

In place of the purchase scheme Sir George said Government were prepared to grant Takkavi Loans on the same lines as last year.

The meeting recorded their appreciation of this. The President then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Tipping as follows:—

"I beg to move a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Tipping for the good "work he has done for us. He has rendered the Planting Community "valuable service on the various deputations he has attended on our behalf "at Madras, where he succeeded beyond our utmost hopes in interesting "the Viceroy and Secretary of State in our case, and at Delhi, where in "co-operation with Mr. Lake of Mysore, he carried out a very difficult "mission and was successful in enlisting the sympathies of Sir George "Barnes and obtaining a concession in the way of Loans which will, we "hope, enable the coffee industry to tide over a critical period. Mr. Tipping "has gone on these missions at considerable personal inconvenience, trouble "and even expense, and has been at great pains to study the subjects "intrusted to him."

This was seconded by Mr. Mahon, and carried unanimously.

COFFEE MARKETS.—In introducing his coffee selling scheme as outlined in his letter to the "Planters' Chronicle" under date the 5th January last, Mr. Martin spoke as below:—

COFFEE MARKETS.—You now know the full extent of the relief you are going to get from Government. It does not amount to a great deal but it is as much as we have a right to expect and then only because of the very abnormal conditions caused by the War.

Government has recognized the suddenness of the blow that has knocked us helpless—prohibition, want of tonnage and sailing facilities, all of which have placed us at the mercy of traders at the local markets where our coffee is collected and where there is no competition—and have come forward with temporary aid in the way of loans, but this does not do away with our main difficulty which is the ultimate disposal of our produce now accumulating.

In this matter we have to help ourselves, and here too the Government has come forward by prohibiting the importation of foreign coffee into India with

the intention of affording us a fair field for the extension of markets for our coffee. We have asked for this measure and now it is granted; are we not going to take any advantage of it? or are we going to let things slide and hope for an improvement next year? What if no improvement takes place —if no shipping is available, and no other than the present insufficient market to depend on, and probably a large crop next year to add to the accumulation of this.

Shall we have the face without making any efforts in the time that is before us, to seek fresh markets and shake off our shackles—to again approach Government for help? I for one would be ashamed to do so.

I begin to think it was the very best thing for our ultimate welfare that Government did refuse to buy our coffee. Had they done so, apathy would have resulted, and our case would be worse than ever.

In a letter I wrote more than two months ago in the *Planting Chronicle*, I indicated the lines on which we might not only improve the situation but ultimately make ourselves independent of shipping, exchange and other disabilities that will beset us for some time to come and restore prosperity. I do not claim that my scheme is the best possible, but it is disappointing to find no great interest taken in the matter, no criticism or alternatives advanced.

No doubt financing the initial costs of some such scheme is "sticking in your gizzards" as the saying is, and you don't like to "cast your bread upon the waters." It appears to me strange that while almost every other industry provides for its market by organization and advertisement before embarking on outlay for production, ours should be lavish on outlay on items of production, such as advances for labour, manures, and then trust to luck in disposing of the same, accept any price offered us, and consent to any deductions that are made for sale expenses. It is encouraging brigandage, of which we are the victims!

Most if not all of you will probably avail yourselves of the Government loans offered for the upkeep of your industry during the coming year. Those who do not will presumably have sufficient funds of their own for the purpose. You will pay off your coolies, re-advance your labour, buy manures, and lay out your money in your operations in connection with *production* of coffee. Why not earmark a certain portion for the purpose of creating an organization to work other markets that are open to you. If Government see that we are in earnest and are doing something in this matter they will help in the way of facilities for moving our coffee to inland markets or even over to Mesopotamia. The situation in regard to shipping in that direction is likely to be much sooner eased than to Europe, and if we can get rid of all our coffee at a remunerative price and at much less cost than sending it to Europe, think what a saving in time, money and trouble it would be. You can always send the proceeds of your sales Home if you like and exchange would be in your favour. We must first have our organization and we must know what funds will be available for setting up this organization. We have enough of acreage contributions and are perhaps a bit tired of that! I therefore suggest that a certain sum per ton of estimated coming crop be fixed on that all will agree to set aside for the above purpose. That all the other coffee Associations be asked if they would agree to a like contribution and when the total amount of funds likely to be available has been ascertained, a Committee of practical planters and business men be got together to formulate a practical scheme and if this finds favour with the planting community there should be no difficulty in starting it at once so as to be prepared to deal with not only the present accumulated stock but the still larger that will come to hand next year.

This contribution would not be or need not be a recurring one as once the Organization is started and gets to business it would be made self-supporting on the usual business lines.

The idea appeared somewhat novel, and the discussion that followed was both critical and sceptical. It was finally decided that it could not be brought before the general body of coffee planters as a workable proposition until details such as Management, Expenses and the best method of handling and apportioning the coffee etc., etc. had been thoroughly gone into. To this end it was decided that a small committee be formed: who, with the assistance of Mr. J. G. Hamilton (who was expected shortly in Coorg) would, it was hoped, work out a practical and acceptable scheme.

Mr. Tipping said that the Delhi Delegates in their report had strongly recommended that a small committee of Coffee Planters be formed immediately with the Authority of the U.P.A.S.I. to deal with vital questions affecting the coffee industry, and he would like to press this with the backing of our Association. The Committee should consist of members who had quick and easy access to one another and the U. P. A. S. I, so as to cause no unnecessary delay in carrying out their deliberations: and meet frequently. This proposed Coffee Market Scheme might be referred to them for settlement as a case in point. The Meeting agreed with Mr. Tipping's suggestion.

ACT XIII OF 1859.—The Secretary read some correspondence between the C P. A. and Mr. Waddington and others in connection with the form of contract in use in Coorg.

Forms of Contract used by other Associations were read and discussed.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE C. P. A.—This subject met with a very animated discussion. It was felt generally that the time had come when "personal" subscriptions should be discontinued and the Association placed on an acreage basis on the lines suggested by the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I. and Sir F. Barber that coffee shall pay an "all in" subscription of Rs.1/4 per acre, to include subscriptions to the U.P.A.S.I., Labour and Scientific Departments.

The Secretary made a statement as to the finances of the C. P. A. explaining to the meeting that owing to the greatly reduced number of members, most of whom had gone to the war, funds were insufficient to carry on. Besides the above Rs. 1/4 he would have to call on Members to pay a small additional sum per acre to meet the expenses of the C. P. A.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—This was opened with the reading of the Resolution of the Anamalai P. A as passed at their meeting on the 5th November last, and circulated to District Associations for their opinions

The C. P. A, agreed with the Resolution in principle, so far as it affected Coffee.

The subject matter of the Re-organisation met with a lengthy debate, the Labour Department being especially criticised. Some members complained that they did not derive any direct benefit from it, and suggested that in this direction expenses might be moderated. With a strong business Committee and organising talent, it is obvious that the suggested Rs. 1/4 an acre will be a direct saving to most members.

Looking to the future we wish to see the District Associations and the U. P. A. S. I. working in harmony, and strong at all points to meet any emergency.

The sense of the meeting was AGAINST removing the offices to Madras. The District Associations and U. P. A. S. I. are an independent body of Planters and wish to retain their unity and identity, which might be merged into that of the Madras Business Houses, with little or no benefit to our body.

GENERAL.—Papers read and discussed.

Coorg Landholders' scheme for a State aided Bank.

Letter No. 2484D. dated 26—2—18 from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce and Industry, as to the reasons against Government Purchase and for Takkavi Loans.

The meeting ended with the usual votes of thanks.

(Signed) G. K. MARTIN, *President.*
(„) A. J. WRIGHT, *Honorary Secretary.*

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Committee Meeting held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on 5th April 1918.

PRESENT.—Revd. Father Capelle, Messrs. E. Travers-Drapes, E. L. Poyser, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, and C. Dickins, (Honorary Secretary.)

(1). ADVERTISING COFFEE.—Read letter dated 27th March, 1918, from Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. also Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association held on 21st March 1918. The Honorary Secretary informed the Committee that he wrote on behalf of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, supporting the Resolution.

The following resolution was passed :—" That the Committee Shevaroy Planters' Association support the action of the Honorary Secretary, but are of opinion that 10 lbs. is too high to be attractive to the housewife and that the minimum should be reduced to 5 lbs. also that reduced rates to the ' trade ' might with advantage be added to the advertisement."

(2) TACCAVI LOANS TO PLANTERS.—Read urgent telegram of 19th March and letter dated 20th March 1918 from Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

(*a*) The Honorary Secretary informed the Committee that he had selected Mr. E. Travers-Drapes for the purpose of advising Government re distribution loans. The steps taken were cordially approved. Mr. Drapes outlined the action taken by him, which was also approved.

(*b*) Copy of letter from Mr. E. Travers-Drapes to the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I., C. R. T. Congreve, Esq., Leslie Rogers, Esq., and A. R. Knapp, Esq., I. C. S. be printed and circulated by the Honorary Secretary to members of the Shevaroy Planters' Association.

(*c*) The Committee are of opinion that a Sub-Committee should be appointed without delay for estimating crops, in case of necessity, and as Messrs. C. Dickins, C. Rahm, are willing to same, with Mr. E. Travers-Drapes on the Sub-Committee, and it is proposed to add the name of Mr. S. M. Hight to the number if he is willing, members are kindly requested to intimate as soon as possible to the Honorary Secretary if they approve of the selection or not. *No reply within one week will be taken as consent.*

(3) SEAT ON THE DISTRICT BOARD, SALEM.—Read letter dated 21st March, 1918 from President, Salem District Board.

The term of Revd. Father Capelle as a nominated member of the Salem District Board representing the Shevaroy Planters' Association having expired, and as he was undesirous of representing the Association again, Mr. V. L. Travers-Drapes was selected.

(4) RATES OF ADVANCE.—Read letter dated 26-2-18 from Mr. R. W. B. Gompertz re recruiting and advancing labour on the Shevaroys.

The Committee is of opinion that recruiting on the Hills cannot be stopped as maistries cannot be prevented from advancing whenever they can get coolies, but think it would be a good thing if every planter would agree that in the case of new labour, no advances should be paid exceeding Rs. 15 per head.

(5). CART RATES.—Read letter dated 25th March, 1918, from Mr. R. W. B. Gompertz and letter dated 1st April, 1918 from Mr. V. L. Travers-Drapes with reference to cart rates. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to send a copy of paras 2 and 3 of the Shevaroy Planters' Association proceedings of 16—6—04 to Messrs. Gompertz and Drapes for their information and that they be informed the usual rates existing at present are Rs. 4 per ½ ton (or cart) from the Railway Station to the Lake and 4 annas pes mile or portion of a mile beyond and the same rates down for a load of about 1800 lbs. equal to 50 bushels of coffee.

(6) AMENDMENT FORM A.—It was decided to discuss the matter at the next Committee Meeting.

(Signed) CHAS. DICKINS, *Honorary Secretary, S.P.A.*

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on March 27th and April 3rd, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Bisset, Craig, Cheeseman, Eyre, Gauld, Gwynne, Lobban, Malcolm, Morres, Abbott (Honorary Secretary). *Honorary Member.*—Mr. J. C. Blackham. *Visitors.*—Messrs. Todd and Fowke.

MR. EYRE IN THE CHAIR.

2370. NEW MEMBERS.—Mr. J. A. Gwynne and Mr. W. G. Craig were elected Members.

2371. LIQUOR SHOPS.—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to Divisional Officer Wynaad and letter from Mr. Hall, I.C.S., Collector of Abkarri, stating that the shop near Chundale factory will be closed from April 1st, 1919 and the shop at Dindimal will be closed from April 1st, 1918. Meanwhile the Chundale shop will be removed 3 furlongs away from the estate from April 1st, 1918. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to thank Mr. Hall.

2372. Mr. COPLAND'S COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE NILGIRI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—Read letter from Messrs. King and Partridge with enclosures dated January 23rd, 1918 and the Honorary Secretary's reply. Also letter from Mr. Copland dated February 14th, 1918 and a copy of Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield's letter of November 21st, 1917 to Messrs. King & Partridge (see para 2306 proceedings of this Association June 6th, 1917). It was decided that the Association had nothing to add to its previous resolution. Messrs. King & Partridge's client had ample opportunity to explain the matter to his own Association if he chose to do so. This Association regards the matter as closed as far as it is concerned.

2373. PLANTERS AND POLICE.—Read letters from Sir F. Barber, dated March 5th, and Honorary Secretary's reply, also Sir F. Barber's letter of March 25th. Letters from Mr. Martin and Mr. Waddington. The Honorary Secretary stated that Sir F. Barber did not think it necessary now to publish his letter of January 1st, which he had offered to do. Resolved (1) that from the statement made by the Planter concerned this Association is satisfied that he not only did not obstruct the police in the case referred to but that on the contrary he assisted them as far as he could, and pointed out to them how the warrantees could be arrested. (2) That while from the correspondence that took place with Mr. Windle the D. S. P., North Malabar, there is no undertaking on the part of Members to endorse warrants, we consider that it would be advisable in future for Planters to endorse them, and when away from their estates to leave written authority with some person to do so.

2374. PROFITEERING.—Mr. Bisset addressed the Meeting. The Honorary Secretary produced the following list of comparative prices in Meppadi bazaar:—

COMPARATIVE PRICES IN MEPPADI BAZAAR.

	1913.	*1918.*
Kerosine oil	by the tin Rs. 2-14-0	... Rs. 6-4-0.
do	by the bottle 2½ annas	... 5 to 6 annas.
do	(*Calicut price*) Rs. 2-7-0 a tin	... Rs. 4.
Rice	good, for rupee 8½ seers	... 5¼ seers.
do	2nd quality for rupee 9 seers	... 6 seers
Raggi	18 seers per rupee	... 10 seers.
Salt	1 anna 6 pies per seer	... 2 annas per seer.
Flour	10 lbs. one rupee	... 10 lbs. Rs. 1-13-8.
Potatoes	35 lbs. Rs. 2-8-0	... 35 lbs. Rs. 4-0-0.
Mutton	5 annas per lb.	... 6 annas per lb.
Ordinary twill cloth	5 annas yard	... 10 to 12 annas.
Ordinary cooly woman's cloths	cheapest 1/12	... Rs. 6.
Chillies	1 lb. 2 to 3 annas	... 7 annas lowest.
Gram	(coolthee) Rs. 7 for 100 seers	... Rs. 9 to 10.

Resolved that the Deputy Collector be asked if any enquiries have been made as to the constantly increasing cost of grain and other necessaries in the local bazaars and if any steps are being taken to remedy the situation which is becoming serious.

2375. U. P. A. S. I. RE-ORGANISATION.—The Association believes that a definite scheme ought to be put forward showing what is proposed as soon as possible. The feeling of the Meeting was on the whole against an inclusive subscription.

2376. MUNSIFF'S COURT AT VAYITRI.—Read correspondence. Noted.

2377. TERIOTE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Read letter from Mr. Simpson, Honorary Secretary's reply, copy of judgment in the Deputy Collector's court No. 14 of 1901 and letter from Mr. Woodhouse, Divisional Officer, to the Honorary Secretary informing him that the Inspector of Police who had been sent to enquire into the matter stated that the Company had no surface rights except to cut such timber as was necessary for mining purposes. It appears in the circumstances that the only course to be taken is to bring a case in court against the trespassers. The Association has no authority to do this. Before any action can be taken the Registrar's office should be searched to ascertain the nature of the title. It is suggested that Mr. Simpson should stop some of the timber and ask on whose authority it is being removed.

2378. RESETTLEMENT OF WYNAAD.—Mr. Todd, I.C.S., mentioned certain cases in which Government land assessed at Rs 2 per acre part of a block assessed at 6 pies was abandoned during the currency of the settlement. He asked what we would like done in such cases. Would we be willing to abandon a definite area equivalent to the Rs. 2 land if it were not desired to retain the whole block. This would probably be allowed. Such cases would only be found in Government jenmum land. The Members present considered that this would be a fair arrangement and thanked Mr. Todd.

2379. EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—Honorary Secretary said he had received circulars and form of subscription which were circulated.

A vote of thanks to the chair concluded the Proceedings.

(Signed) E. E. EYRE, *Chairman.*

(,) C. E. ABBOTT, *Honorary Secretary.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mercara, 2nd April, 1918.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Markets.

Sir,—I am glad to see the South Mysore Planters' Association or some members of it, have woke up to the fact that (in their President's words) " while Government are doing all they can to help us, we must not neglect to help ourselves." That is what I have been preaching for several months. It has taken a long time for Messrs. Lake and F. M. Hamilton to arrive at the same conclusion as I did months ago, and they have put forward a scheme something on the lines of mine, but more flabby and nebulous. The U. P. A. S. I. to appoint an agent and pay for him! The U.P.A.S.I. to advertise in all the important papers throughout India and pay for these advertisements! Poor overburdened U. P. A. S. I., crying for money to re-organise itself! The intention of these gentlemen, however, is good *viz.* to do something whereby we may become independent of a restricted and glutted market.

I addressed my Association (Coorg Planters) on the matter at our last meeting—the proceedings of which will, I hope, shortly appear in the *Planters' Chronicle*, but I am afraid I did not succeed in impressing the members present very much! Planters are difficult to move in matters the least bit out of their line, and require a vast amount of " gingering." The process of considering a thing is very slow, and from consideration to action is about the pace of a " Tank " on its lowest gear! !

Unfortunately time is against us. We *must* have an organisation of some sort competent to deal with the accumulated stocks of this season, and be prepared for the much larger crop expected next season. Funds will be required to start and establish an effective business organisation, and here the jibbing process (another little idiosyncrasy of the Planter) begins!

Of course the cry is " we are hard put to it, and have no spare money to start new organisations." I say, some others may wait but this cannot. It is proved to the hilt that we cannot sell even a moderate crop in the present local markets. What of a large crop? We can get rid of it, of course, by giving it away, but what is the fun of producing to give it away! It costs something to produce. You are getting loans for this purpose, why not set aside a part of these loans to work up a business organisation for selling your coffee where it is wanted. Put your coffee on the spot, let the buyers see it, and show them bags and bags of it piled up, ready for delivery. Do this in every locality where coffee is wanted.

To find out this, and how much is wanted in each place, you must have a good business man to travel around in the first place and gain information, arrange with and appoint agents, or agencies to do the business for you, then settle down in an office located in a central position, tabulate the information he had gained and pull the strings. Finally you want a small Directorate of Planters or business men whose interests are identical with those of planters, to control, and keep the business on the right tracks *viz.*, the benefit of planters and those directly connected with them, rendering them independent of " Bull," and " Bears," and bringing them, as much as possible, in direct touch with consumers.

It must be borne in mind that, unlike other organisations which require annual subscription, to keep them up, this one would only require an initial —though perhaps heavy—expenditure to start and establish it, after which it should be self-supporting—all sale costs being charged to the account of those who put their business in the hands of the organization, plus a commission for upkeep of the same.

Even then the costs of sales would be less than what are made to pay now.

Yours faithfully.

G. K. MARTIN.

Labour Department.
Deputy Director's Office,
Coimbatore,
S. India.
8th April, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Labour Rules.

Sir,—Can you give me space to call the attention of, and make an appeal to Subscribers to the Labour Department, with reference to a Labour Rule passed by the Anamalai Planters' Association at their last meeting.

Hitherto the Association had a rule, which made it optional on an Estate taking on a new Maistry, who was later found to be already under contract elsewhere, to either take over his debt or cease to employ him. But under present circumstances, when every one is shorthanded, all Planters are busy men, and in working it was found advisable that there should be some strong inducement to make all Estates see that their Maistries were registered at the Department's Offices.

The old Rule therefore has been amended as follows :—

Rule.—5. The members of this Association agree not to give a cash advance to, or make an agreement with, any applicant for Maistry's work, who is not at the time under contract with them, without first referring to the U. P. A. S. I. Labour Department, and in the event of such applicant being reported by the Labour Department to be already indebted or under contract to an Estate subscribing to this undertaking, it shall be encumbent on the Estate, to which the applicant has applied, not to employ, advance or enter into contract with such applicant without the consent of the other Estate, and if any Maistry, in contravention of this rule, shall after 1st April 1918 be employed or advanced, then the Estate so employing or advancing him shall cease to employ him further or take over his debt at the option of the Estate which the Labour Department reports the applicant is indebted to, or under contract with.

In this rule MAISTRY means any person who has been employed as a Maistry or seeks to be so employed.

It will be observed this completely shifts the responsibility. It is no longer at the option of the estate taking on a new man that it shall cease to employ him or take over his debt, but at the option of the Estate, in whose employ the Maistry was at the time, whether they will take the man back or receive repayment of anything due by him.

In self-defence, every Estate has the keenest interest in seeing that their Maistries are duly registered, and still more in consulting the Department before engaging new men, for if that is not done they may land themselves with a "Waster" and incur a liability of an unknown amount, account debts due elsewhere.

The Department has given special attention to this matter of Registration, and the history of all Maistries, as far as can be ascertained, is recorded. There can be no doubt much useful work has been done already in putting a stop to the practice of swindlers obtaining dual advances, and many men who have for years been making a living by this trick are either retiring from the business or have gone to pray on non-subscribing Estates.

In order to obviate the following simple code was selected from the ABC Telegraphic Code.

Imbuitassa	meaning	What information have you of.....
Kalka	,,	We know nothing of.....
Nasalis	,,	The latest news we have of.....
Nauscentia	,,	Have nothing to do with.....
Ecuorea	,,	I have engaged.....

The Honorary Secretary of the Anamalai's Planters' Association was written that they are quite ready to enter into a reciprocal agreement with any other subscribers to the Department under this Rule.

I would suggest that all subscribers willing to join, should send an undertaking on the following lines to the Honorary Secretary, U. P. A.

"Having considered Rule 5 of the Anamalai's Planters' Association "Labour Rules I hereby agree to be bound by the same as "from day of 19 provided "members of that Association and other subscribers to the "agreement will accept me as a subscribing party to that under-"taking."

If a considerable number of Subscribers will join in this reciprocal agreement, a start will have been made in framing inter-District Labour Rules, and we may possibly be able to find other common ground, and so be able to enlarge the number of them, and such rule or rules would assist greatly towards Subscribers getting the full benefit of this expensive Department they are maintaining.

H. WADDINGTON,
Deputy Director,
Labour Department, U. P. A. S. I.

Custom House, Madras,
8th April, 1918.

Tea 305/18.

From G. N. BOWER ESQ., B.A.,
Asst. Tea Commissioner, Madras.

Food Controller's Tea Purchase Scheme.

To

All Estates and firms shipping tea to the United Kingdom consigned to the Food Controller.

Gentlemen,—In continuation of my circular No. Tea 243/18, dated 15th Ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Tea Commissioner has now requested me to arrange for the supply of 12 million lbs. of tea from South India during April and May 1918, and as it is essential that this quantity should be delivered before 31st May 1918, it has been decided as a tentative measure to suspend the allotment system for these two months and to allow estates to ship to the Food Controller as much tea as possible. This

arrangement is however subject to the following conditions which must be strictly observed:—

(*a*) That shipments by estates in excess of the quantity tendered by them in accordance with the Tea Commissioner's Notification No. 3364 T. C., dated 17th Janurary, 1918, should conform to the range of grades covered by their tender.

(*b*) That payment for half the teas shipping by Home controlled concerns in excess of their tender should be drawn for at Home in sterling.

2. The other instructions governing the examination of samples of teas by the Tea Expert and relating to the shipment of dust tea, the rate of value payable for tea and the documents required to be forwarded for, my counter-signature remain unaltered.

3. I request that you will be good enough to let me know as early as possible how much tea you will be able to deliver F. O. B. ready at the port of shipment on or before 31st May 1918, showing as far as possible the quantity according to each grade.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
G. N. BOWER,
Asst. Tea Commissioner.

Proposed South Indian Association.

20, Eastcheap, London, E. C. 3.,
21st January, 1918.

Dear Sir,—It has been in the minds of a number of those connected with planting matters in South India, that an Association should be formed in London to co-operate with the United Planters' Association of South India for the promotion and protection of the interests of the South Indian Planting Community, and further to associate itself with other bodies, having the same or like objects in view. The difficulties arising out of the present War conditions have made such a step urgent, and I have been asked to convene a meeting of those interested in the formation of such an Association.

The Indian Tea Association have kindly offered the use of their Council Room for such a meeting, and I shall be glad if you can arrange to attend at the Offices of

THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C.,

on Thursday, 24th January, 1918 at noon.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. KNIGHT.

Proposed South Indian Association in London.

AGENDA
FOR
Meeting to be held at 21, Mincing Lane, E.C., on 24th January, 1918.

1. The Meeting will appoint a Chairman.

2. The Chairman will explain the purpose of the proposed Association and will move:—

"That an Association be formed to co-operate with the U. P. A. S. "I. and to associate itself with other Associations and bodies, "having the same or like objects in view, and that it shall be "defined as "The South Indian Association."

Seconded by Mr.

3. The Meeting shall appoint the following :—

Chairman	...	Mr. H. M. Knight.
Deputy Chairman	...	Mr. J. R. H. Pinckney.
General Committee 1	...	Mr. W. H. Cox.
2	...	Mr. A. Bryans.
3	...	Mr. G. Croll.
4	...	Mr. O. A. Bannatine.
5	...	Mr. Brooke Mockett.
6	...	Mr. W. J. Lucking.
7	...	Sir J. D. Rees, M.P.
8	...	Mr. E. H. Black.
9	...	Mr. W. Lyall Grant.
Secretary & Treasurer 10	...	Mr. Granville L. Acworth.

The Secretary of the Indian Tea Association.

South India Association in London.

20, Eastcheap, London, E. C. 3,
6th February, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON ESQ.,
Secretary, United Planters' Association of S. India (Incorpd.)
25, South Parade,
Bangalore, S. India.

Dear Sir,—I enclose the notice and agenda of the meeting held on 21st January last, giving the names of officers elected for this year.

Owing to the illness of the gentleman acting as Secretary, we have not been able to send you a formal letter enclosing rules etc., but this will follow, I hope, by next Mail.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. KNIGHT.

South Indian Association in London,

21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.
London, 18th February, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore, Southern India.

Dear Sir,—I have to advise you that at a meeting held at the offices of the Indian Tea Association on Thursday, the 24th January, 1918. The South Indian Association in London was inaugurated.

You will observe that the basis of the new Association is on broader lines than was covered by the Resolution passed at the Annual Meeting of your Association. The reason for this being that it was felt that an Association in London should be in a position to represent all South Indian interests, and not merely those of one section of the community.

The Association will only have a small membership to start with, but it is hoped that its usefulness will grow and that in time it will be fully representative of all South Indian interests, and the stronger it becomes, the more effective will its intervention become in matters pertaining to the welfare of the Planting and business community of South India, both in India and at home.

In the meantime it will be housed in the offices of the Indian Tea Association, who have kindly granted us office accommodation and Secretarial staff at a very reasonable figure, but if the work of the Association

grows, it will no doubt in time be necessary to provide separate offices and staff of our own.

A copy of the Rules passed by the Committee on 14th instant, which come up for confirmation at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for 28th instant, are herein enclosed.

As it is impossible to register cypher addresses during the war, you are at liberty to use the Travancore Tea Estates telegraphic address, which is:—"Campestral," but you must always begin your message with "Knight," which will be understood to signify that the message is for this Association.

Please add Mr. Granville L. Acworths's name to the list of Members of Committee sent you on 6th instant.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, South Indian Association in London at the above address.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. KNIGHT,
Chairman.

P. S.—Please let us know your telegraphic address.

DRAFT RULES
OF
THE SOUTH INDIAN ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

(Approved and adopted at a Meeting of the General Committee held on 14th February, 1918.)

1. The Association shall be defined as the South Indian Association in London.

2. The objects of the Association shall be to promote the interests of all matters in any way connected with the Planting and Mercantile Industries to co-operate with the U. P. A. S. I. and with other Associations and bodies having the same or like objects in view.

3. The Association shall consist of:—

(*a*) Ordinary Members.
(*b*) Honorary Members.

Any individual persons, companies or firms interested in the production of Tea, Coffee, Rubber, Cocoanuts, Cardamoms or other produce in South India, shall be eligible as Ordinary Members.

The General Committee shall have power to invite any persons of distinction to become Honorary Members of the Association.

4. Any candidate for admission to membership of the Association shall be proposed by a member of the Committee and seconded by another, and his election shall be decided by a majority of votes at any meeting of the General Committee.

5. The annual subscription to the Association shall be on the following scale:—

Companies	...	1*d.* per cultivated acre.
Firms	...	2 guineas.
Individuals	...	1 guinea.

6. The funds of the Association shall consist of the subscriptions referred to in Rule 5, and shall be at the disposal of the General Committee to administer as they may think fit towards promoting the interests of the Association.

7. If any Member shall fail to pay his subscription in advance, within three months after the date on which it falls due, *viz.*, 1st January each year, he shall cease to be a Member of the Association, provided always

that the Committee shall have power to reinstate such member in consideration of any justifiable excuse.

8. A Member may resign his Membership by giving notice in writing of such resignation to the Secretary at any time prior to the 31st December in any year, failing which he shall be liable for his subscription for the year in which he resigns.

9. The General Committee shall be empowered by a majority of two-thirds of those personally present at any Meeting convened for such purpose to cancel the Membership of any Member whose action, in their opinion, is contrary to the interests of the Association.

10. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and General Committee shall be elected by the members of the Annual General Meeting, and the retiring Chairman and Vice-Chairman may be re-elected at such meetings, provided they shall not hold such offices for more than two years in succession. Members of the General Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

11. The General Committee shall consist of not more than 10 members nor less than seven members, exclusive of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Any casual vacancy or vacancies which may occur during the year, may be filled by the Committee electing any othsr member or members of the Association to complete the number.

12. The General Committee shall have power to regulate and order its meetings as it may deem fit, and shall determine the quorum necessary for such meetings. All decisions at such meetings shall be given by a show of hards, the Chairman having a second or casting vote.

13. The General Committee shall ordinarily manage the affairs of the Association, deal with its funds, appoint officers, and fix salaries, and may appoint one or more of their number as Sub-Committees for special purposes. The General Committee shall submit, at the Annual General Meeting of Members, a report of the proceedings of the Association and an account duly audited of all moneys received and disbursed during the year under report.

14. Sub-Committees appointed by the General Committee shall report upon the special subject for which they were appointed to the General Committee, and such report shall not take effect until approved of and adopted by the General Committee unless specially authorised.

15. A General Meeting of members shall be held annually as soon after the close of the year as possible, at such time and place as may be prescribed by the General Committee: seven days' notice being given of such Meeting.

The General Committee may, at their discretion invite any person, not being a Member of the Association, to attend any General Meeting of Members, and may authorise such person to speak at such Meeting but he shall not be allowed to vote.

Six Members personally present shall form a quorum; should a quorum not be present within ten minutes after the time for which the Meeting was called, the Meeting shall be adjourned to a subsequent date to be fixed by the Chairman.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Association the Vice-Chairman shall preside at the Annual General Meeting or at any Meetings of Members held during their year of office; failing either being present the Meeting shall appoint a Chairman.

16. Questions arising at any Annual General Meeting of Members shall be decided by a majority of votes of the Members personally present or represented by proxy, each Member who has paid his subscription being entitled to one vote. The Chairman to have a second or casting vote.

17. At the requisition of seven Members, the General Committee may, whenever they think fit, and within thirty days of such requisition, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members: the object of such Meeting shall be specified on the requisition, and seven days' notice of such Meeting shall be given to all Members. The Meeting shall be conducted under the same rules as those laid down for the Annual General Meeting.

18. Minutes of business transacted at all Meetings shall be kept by the Secretary and entered in a Minute Book; such Minutes shall, in the case of General Meetings, be read at the next following Meeting of the General Committee, and in the case of Committee Meetings, at the next Meeting of such Committee, and shall be signed by the Chairman presiding.

19. The Rules of the Association may only be repealed or altered at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose, and the proposed alteration or new rule, or rules, shall be notified to the Members at least seven days previous to such meeting.

20. The above rules to take effect from the date of the Extraordinary General Meeting to be convened.

South Indian Association in London.
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3, London,
19th February, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed to inform you that at a meeting of those interested in Planting and Mercantile matters in South India held at the offices of the Indian Tea Association, No. 21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3, on January 24th last, it was unanimously resolved to form a South Indian Association in London, with the object of promoting the interests of the Planting and Mercantile communities.

The following office-bearers were elected to hold office for the ensuing year, and arrangements have been made with the Indian Tea Association to provide the necessary office accommodation and Secretarial services:—

Chairman ... H. M. Knight, Esq.
Vice-Chairman ... J. R. Hugh Pinckney, Esq.

COMMITTEE:

Granville L. Acworth, Esq.	George Croll, Esq.
O. A. Bannantine, Esq.	W. L. Grant, Esq.
Ernest Black, Esq.	W. J Lucking, Esq.
A. Bryans, Esq.	Brooke Mockett, Esq.
W. H. Cox, Esq.	Sir John D. Rees, K.C.I.E., M.V.O., M.P.

I am directed to invite you to join the Association, and to enclose a copy of the proposed Rules, which have been drawn up by the Committee, and which will be presented for confirmation at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association to be held at the Indian Tea Association, 21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3, on Thursday the 28th instant at 12-30 p.m.

You will see by the enclosed copy of the proposed Rules that the Annual Subscription proposed is:—

(*a*) Companies and Estates ... 1*d*. per cultivated acre.
(*b*) Firms ... 2 guineas.
(*c*) Individuals ... 1 guinea.

and I shall be glad if you will inform me whether or not it is your intention to become a Member of the Association, and whether you will be present on the 28th instant.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3,
London, 26th February, 1918.

With reference to the Meeting of the persons interested in the formation of this Association to be held at the offices of the Indian Tea Association, 21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3 on Thursday next, the 28th instant at 12-30 p.m. I enclose a copy of the finally revised draft of the proposed Rules of the Association, which will be submitted for consideration and if thought fit, of adoption at that meeting.

A. F. BRUCE.

DRAFT RULES
OF THE
SOUTH INDIAN ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

To be submitted for adoption to a Meeting of the Founders of the Association to be held on 28th February, 1918.

NAME AND OBJECTS OF ASSOCIATION.

NAME. (1)—The name of the Association shall be the "South Indian Association in London."

OBJECTS. (2)—The objects of the Association shall be the promotion of the interests of the Planting, Mercantile and Industrial businesses of South India either alone or in co-operation with the United Planters' Association of South India or other Associations or bodies having similar objects, and the doing of all lawful things as are incidental or conducive thereto.

MEMBERSHIP.

CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY. (3)—The Association shall consist of:—

(*a*) Ordinary Members.

(*b*) Honorary Members.

Any persons, Companies, or Firms engaged or interested in Planting Mercantile or Industrial business in South India, shall be eligible for election as Ordinary Members.

HONORARY MEMBERS. (4)—The Committee shall have power to invite any persons of distinction to become Honorary Members of the Association.

ELECTION.—(5) Any candidate for admission as an Ordinary member of the Association must be proposed and seconded by members of the Committee and his election shall be determined by a majority of votes at a Meeting of the Committee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. (6) The Annual Subscription payable by Ordinary Members to the Association shall be on the following scale, and payable in advance immediately upon election, and on the 1st of January of each ensuing year:—

SCALE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS—

Plantation Companies and Estate Owners	1*d.* per cultivated acre.
Firms and Companies (Not being Plantation Companies)	... 2 guineas.
Individuals	... 1 guinea.

REGISTERED ADDRESS.—(7) Each Member of the Association shall from time to time communicate to the Secretary in writing the address which he desires to be his registered address to which all Notices shall be delivered or sent by post.

NON-PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION.—(8) No Member shall be admitted to vote at any General Meeting or to enjoy any of the privileges of the Association until he shall have paid his Annual Subscription for the current calendar year, and if any Member shall fail to pay his subscription, within three months after the date of which it falls due, he shall cease to be a Member of the Association. Provided that the Committee shall have power to reinstate such Member upon receiving a satisfactory explanation of the delay in payment.

RESIGNATION.—(9) A Member may resign his Membership by giving notice in writing of such resignation to the Secretary but he shall continue liable for any unpaid subscription for the year in which he resigns,

EXPULSION.—(10) The Committee shall be empowered by a majority of two-thirds of those present at any Meeting convened for such purpose to cancel the Membership of any Member without giving any reason for such cancellation.

COMMITTEE.

ELECTION.—(11) The Chairman, Vice Chairman and General Committee must be Members of the Association, and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The retiring Chairman and Vice-Chairman may be re-elected at such Meetings, provided that neither shall be elected to the same office for more than two years in succession. Members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

NUMBER &C.—(12) The General Committee shall consist of not less than seven or more than ten in number, exclusive of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman who shall be ex-officio Members of the Committee.

In case the number of the Committee shall at any time be reduced below seven, the remaining members may act for the purpose of filling up vacancies, but not for any other purpose.

The Association may from time to time in General Meeting increase or reduce the number of the General Committee, and may remove a Member of the Committee before the expiration of his period of office.

FIRST MEMBERS.—(13) The first Members of the General Committee shall be :—

Chairman	... H. M. Knight, Esq.
Vice-Chairman	... J. R. Hugh Pinckney, Esq.

COMMITTEE.

Granville L. Acworth, Esq.	George Croll, Esq.
O. A. Bannatine, Esq.	W. L. Grant, Esq.
Ernest Black, Esq.	W. J. Lucking, Esq.
A. Bryans, Esq.	Brooke Mockett, Esq.
W. H. Cox, Esq.	Sir John D. Rees, K.C.I.E., M.V.O., M.P.

They shall hold office until the Annual General Meeting in 1919.

RESIGNATION.—(14) A Member of the Committee may at any time resign his office by letter addressed to the Secretary and left at the office of the Association.

VACANCIES, &C.—(15) Any vacancy or vacancies upon the Committee or in the offices of Chairman or Vice-Chairman may be filled by the Committee.

MEETINGS.—(16) The General Committee and all Sub-Committees may regulate their Meetings as they deem fit, and may from time to time determine the quorum necessary for such meetings. Until otherwise determined five Members shall be a quorum for the General Committee and two for Sub-Committees consisting of two or more members. All questions at such Meetings shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

POWERS. (17) The Committee shall manage the affairs and exercise all the powers of the Association other than those required to be exercised in General Meeting, and shall appoint Bankers and Officers, and fix salaries, and shall administer the Funds of the Association in such manner as they think best for the promotion of its objects.

SUB-COMMITTEES.—(18) The General Committee may delegate all or any of their powers to Sub-Committees consisting of one or more Members of their body as they think fit. All Sub-Committees so formed shall in exercise of the powers so delegated conform to any regulations which may be imposed upon them by the General Committee.

INDEMNITY.—(19) The Members of the Committee shall be indemnified out of the Assets of the Association against all liabilities or claims which they may incur about the execution of their duty or supposed duty, and none of them shall be answerable for the acts or defaults of the others.

ACCOUNTS AND AUDITORS.

ACCOUNTS.—(20) The Committee shall cause true Accounts to be kept at the Office of the Association of the transactions, assets and liabilities of the Association.

AUDITORS.—(21) The Association shall at each Annual General Meeting appoint an Auditor or Auditors to hold office until the next ensuing Annual General Meeting. The first Auditors shall be appointed by the Committee.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. (22)—A General Meeting of the Association shall be held annually as soon as possible after the close of each calendar year, and at such time and place as may be determined by the Committee.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS. (23)—Seven days' notice shall be given of all Meetings of the Association, specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted thereat, and such notice shall be served by delivering it or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to such Member at his registered address appearing in the Register of Members. Such notice shall be given by the Secretary or other person appointed by the Committee to do so.

The notice shall be deemed to be served at the time at which it is delivered or put into the post.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.—(24) The Committee shall submit, at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, a report of the proceedings of the Association, and a duly audited Account of all moneys received and disbursed during the previous year.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES AND PROPOSAL OF BUSINESS &C. BY MEMBERS.—(25) Any Member wishing to propose at an Annual General Meeting any Candidate or Candidates for the Committee, Chairmanship, or Vice-Chairmanship, or any new Rule, or alteration of old Rule, or to make

any other proposition at such Meeting shall send the name of such candidate or candidates and a copy of such rule, alteration, or proposition to the Committee in writing at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting, and particulars thereof shall then be included by the Committee in the Notice of such Meeting.

ATTENDANCE OF NON-MEMBERS.—(26) The Committee may, at their discretion, invite any person, not being a Member, to attend any General Meeting of the Association, and may authorise such person to speak at such Meeting, but he shall not be allowed to vote.

QUORUM.—(27) Six Members personally present at a Meeting of the Association shall form a quorum. Should a quorum not be present within ten minutes after the time for which the Meeting was called, the Meeting shall be adjourned to a subsequent date to be fixed by the Chairman at the Meeting, of which adjourned Meeting, due notice shall be given to the Members, and the Members present at the adjourned Meeting whatever their number shall be a quorum.

CHAIRMAN.—(28) In the absence of the Chairman of the Association the Vice-Chairman shall preside at General Meetings, and failing either being present, the Meeting shall appoint a Chairman.

PROXIES.—(29) Members may attend General Meetings by proxy duly appointed in writing under the hand of the Member or his Attorney, or if the member is a Corporation under the hand of one of its Directors, Secretary, or other Official, duly authorised for the purpose. Proxies must be deposited at the Offices of the Association 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the Meeting at which the proxy proposes to vote.

VOTES.—(30) Questions arising at any General Meeting shall be decided upon a show of hands by a majority of votes of the Members personally present or represented by proxy: each Member who has paid his current subscription being entitled to one vote. In case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

REQUISITION FOR MEETING BY MEMBERS.—(31.) Upon the requisition in writing of seven Members, the General Committee shall within thirty days of the receipt of such requisition, convene a general Meeting of the Association. The objects of such Meeting shall be specified in the requisition.

MINUTES.—(32) Minutes of business transacted at all Meetings shall be kept and entered in a Minute Book. Such Minutes shall, in the case of General Meetings, be read at the next following Meeting of the General Committee, and in the case of Committee or Sub-Committee Meetings, at the next Meeting of such Committee or Sub-Committee, and shall be signed by the Chairman presiding.

GENERAL.

DEFINITIONS.—(33) In these Rules words importing persons shall include corporations, and the word "year" means "calendar year," the word "Committee" means "General Committee," and the words "General Meeting" mean "General Meeting of the Members of the Association."

REPEAL OR ALTERATIONS OF RULES.—(34) The Rules of the Association shall only be repealed or altered at a General Meeting of the Association called for the purpose, and a copy of the proposed alteration or new rule, or rules shall be sent to each Member with the Notice of the Meeting.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the Proceedings of the Quarterly General Meeting of the North Mysore Planters' Association.

Also the minutes of the Quarterly General Meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association.

We are indebted to the *Tropical Life* for an article on Coffee Planting for Profit.

In our correspondence pages will be found a letter from Mr. Brooke Mockett.

The shipment of coffee to United Kingdom, South Africa is a matter of correspondence with the Deputy Controller of Shipping, Bombay.

We publish a Circular letter and Agenda Paper from the Honorary Secretary, Mundakayam Planters' Association, dealing with the Rubber Planters' Conference to be held at Cochin on the 7th, 8th and 9th of May and promise to be most interesting.

Mr. Anstead contributes a letter on Lime as does Mr. Newcome.

We reproduce the Government Order on coffee Loans.

Mr. Tipping writes on the proposed coffee committee. We trust that the Associations interested will give him their support,

Mrs. Anstead appeals to all Planters for books and magazines for the soldiers.

The Honorary Secretary, Bangalore Soldiers' Aid Committee, asks us to publish the following names of subscribers and to thank them for their contribution:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Mrs. Galiffe	15	0	0
Mr. B. M. Behr	25	0	0
„ F. Bissett	25	0	0
„ Woodbridge	10	0	0
„ T. J. Gillett	15	0	0
Total ...	90	0	0
Already acknowledged	282	0	0
Total ...	372	0	0

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	70,321	0	0
Mr. A. Yates	100	0	0
Total Rs...	70,421	0	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

North Mysore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Quarterly General Meeting held at Balehonnur, on the 18th March, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. C. Danvers (Chairman), C. H. Godfrey, C. P. Reed, Thos. Hunt, R. G. Foster, C. S. Crawford and W. H. Reed (Honorary Secretary).

Chairman.—Gentlemen, before proceeding with the business of the Meeting I would like those present to pass a vote of sympathy with Mr. E. C. Bolton on the death of Mrs. Bolton at Coonoor.—Passed in silence, all members standing.

ASSISTANT SCIENTIFIC OFFICER.—A statement of accounts was read. The Secretary was asked to apply to the Secretary, U. P. A S. I. for the proportion due to this Association.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I. AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT.—The following resolution was passed:—That a suggestion be put before the U. P. A. S. I. Council that an Extraordinary Meeting be held, say in May, to discuss the question of its re-organization and that of the Labour Department, and of their combination, and that at such meeting worked out schemes on bases Rs. 1, 1/4 and 1/8 per acre for combination, and not exceeding these totals for separate existence, be considered with a view to refer them to District Associations for their opinions. Definite suggestions such as these can be better discussed and criticised than the nebulous proposals at present current.

TRAVELLERS' BUNGALOWS.—General complaints were made against the lack of furniture and utensils in all the 1st Class Bungalows in the Kadur District, the Mudigere one especially was in a deplorable state. The Honorary Secretary was asked to write to the Deputy Commissioner calling his attention to this matter.

KADUR RAILWAY STATION.—The Honorary Secretary was asked to write to the authorities concerned about the insanitary state of the Waiting Rooms at the Station.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF COFFEE AND FINANCIAL AID.—Read letters from the Secretary U. P. A. S. I., Dewan, and 1st Counsellor proposing an interview in Bangalore to-day. After some discussion the following Telegram was sent to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. "Is interview granted to-day what result reply to Reed Balehonnur meeting being held." The result to be intimated to Members immediately on receipt.

A hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. Lake and Tipping was passed for their willing and able efforts on behalf of their brother Planters.

Read letter from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. dated 15th March, 1919 forwarding 'Form of Contract for both coolies and Maistries, approved by Dr. Pandalai, and which can be obtained at the office of the Labour Department at Coimbatore.

Read letter from the European Association, dated 9th March, 1918. The Honorary Secretary was asked to make out a list of retired Planters with their addresses and forward it to the Honorary Secretary of the European Association. The following Resolution proposed by Mr. Danvers, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Reed was passed:—"That this Association wishes to convey its congratulations to Sir Fairless Barber on the distinction conferred upon him—and to put on record its appreciation of the strenuous labour on behalf of their community by both himself and Mr. Nicholls, the U. P. A. S. I., Chairman.

(Signed) W. H. REED, *Honorary Secretary.*

Mundakayam Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Quarterly General Meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association, held at the Mundakayam Club, on Saturday, April 6th, 1918, at 10 a.m.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. R. Vincent (Chairman), T. W. H. Fitchett, Ashton Hamond, H. B. Kirk, H. B. McPherson, N. D. Pollock, S. P. Peckover and Edwin Vincent (Honorary Secretary).

1. Minutes of last Meeting were taken as read.

2. The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on April 3rd were then discussed seriatum.

(*a*) THE RUBBER PLANTERS' CONFERENCE.—The Committee's proposals were agreed to with the following additions:—

The date of the Conference was fixed for May 7th, 8th and 9th at Cochin.

That pending the election of a Secretary by the Conference, Mr. Edwin Vincent, Mundakayam, be asked to act as Secretary.

That Mr. J. S. Nicolls, Chairman of the U.P.A.S.I. be asked to preside.

The Meeting also agreed that paragraph No. 4 of the Committee's proposals be deleted.

(*b*) THE RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—The Meeting discussed fully the minute drawn up by the Honorary Secretary embodying the Committee's proposals. The main points of the scheme were unanimously approved.

It was decided that the scheme with the slight alterations agreed to, be printed and circulated among all Associations but that it should not be published until after the discussion at the Rubber Planters' Conference in Cochin, before which the scheme will be placed by this Association.

(*c*) Incorporation of the Mundakayam Planters' Association.

(*d*) Rubber Shipments and Finance.

(*e*) Association account.

The Meeting confirms the Committee's action in these matters.

3. THE COOLY CHATTRAM IN MUNDAKAYAM.—Plans and estimates for this, drawn up by Messrs. R. Harley and S. P. Peckover, were submitted to and accepted by the Meeting. The Honorary Secretary said that Government had not yet granted a site for the building. Messrs. Harley and Peckover were accorded a hearty vote of thanks for their trouble.

4. TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.—The Honorary Secretary reported progress and was instructed to press the matter with the Commissioner, Devicolam and Government.

5. SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY AND THE COMBINED TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING.—The Delegate (Mr. J. R. Vincent) spoke as to what had occurred at these Meetings and a full report will be sent later to all members. The Meeting passed a vote thanks to the delegate.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.—The Honorary Secretary read letters from the Sanitary Commissioner, *re* Vaccination, and other communications. There was no discussion.

7. Messrs. Walker & Co., Alleppey, were elected private members of the Association.

8. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.—The next meeting was fixed for Saturday, July 6th, 1918, at the Mundakayam Club.

The Meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) J. R. VINCENT, *Chairman.*

(„) EDWIN VINCENT, *Honorary Secretary.*

COFFEE.

Coffee Planting for Profit.

The Various Species: C. liberica.

The plant that produces the Liberian coffee of commerce is not a shrub, but a tree with a tap-root, the height of which varies between 18 ft. and 36 ft., whilst the diameter of the trunk reaches at times as much as 12 in. across. The position of the leaves is the same as that of the Arabian variety, but as regards the size of the leaves, these with *liberica* are twice, if not three times the size of the *arabica* leaves. Again, quoting B. B. Keable, we are told that the flowers grow in clusters of six or eight together in the axils of the leaves. Like the leaves of the Liberian variety, the flowers also exceed those of the Arabian kind in size, and so do the fruits or "cherries," which are much bigger, with a diameter at times of as much as 1 in. These, the "cherries," do not drop so readily from the trees when ripe as the Arabian ones do. Of the two varieties also, the pulp of the Liberian fruits is less rich in sugar and tougher in texture, causing the use of special machinery to be necessary when preparing the crop for market.

The aroma of the Liberian berries is not greatly appreciated, which is a pity, when one considers the many advantages and the good qualities of this kind, especially its great fertility: owing to this fact, however, planters and planting experts in Java are always trying to improve the species. The general characteristics of the plant do not show that fixity which is so apparent with *arabica* coffee, and this is especially apparent in the different shapes that are assumed by the leaves of the Liberian trees. The branches generally are in ascending positions, and the flowers exhale a scent of honey and orange flower. The phenomenon of "pea-berry" coffee beans so common in C. *arabica* is met with only as an exception in the Liberian variety.

It may be remembered that the C. *liberica* was discovered by the Swedish scientist Afzelius on the West Coast of Africa between the third and tenth degree latitude N., and some plants were introduced into both Ceylon and Java, after those islands had been visited by the coffee-leaf disease, in the hopes that the variety would prove immune to the pest, but its powers of resistance did not, unfortunately, reach the expectations associated with it, and so did not help to overcome the trouble by being able to take the place of the Arabian kind.

A mixture of the two varieties has often been sought after in the hopes that the advantages of each could be made a prominent feature and their drawbacks delegated to the background. To help in this, artificial hybridization has been tried several times in Java, and in British India "the grafting of Liberian coffee on to *arabica*," says Keable, "has been tried, but has not, so far, proved successful, although results of experiments in the opposite direction, *viz.*, Arabian coffee grafted on to Liberian stock were quite satisfactory. Among other things it was observed that such plants suffered less from the attacks of parasites."

C. liberica is widely cultivated in Java and in the Congo, and does not seem to have produced so many sub-species or sub-varieties as *C. arabica*.

Of other species, C. *stenophylla* is a shrub, with small leaves and but few flowers. Its birthplace is Sierra Leone, where it is known as Highland coffee. It is a strong plant, and, in the British colonies, the results of its introduction have proved satisfactory.

From the Belgian Congro come two new species, *viz.* C. *congoensis*, a shrub with light green, wavy leaves and small but bright red fruits, which is resistant to the leaf disease: and C. *canephora*, a variety that is not so strong as the C. *congoensis*, but which yields good coffee. Both of these kinds have been introduced into Madagascar. They are also to be noted as having produced many sub-varieties.

Besides the foregoing it would take too long to enumerate the whole of the thirty-six species of the coffee-yielding tribe, but I would add that

De Wildeman, in his book "Les Plantes Tropicales" includes a useful bibliography of each of these kinds, and those wishing for particulars cannot do better than refer to what that eminent Belgian authority has to tell us about them.

Coming now to

COFFEE SOILS,

I would begin by saying that shallow soils are no good for the tap-rooted coffee plant, for its root must be allowed to penetrate vertically well down into the soil, and, this being so, the depth of the sub-soil must be proportionate to the length of the tap-root. This makes it an important matter for investigation, if the coffee estate is to prove successful, to see that the soil is deep enough to allow the roots to fully develop without having to come into contact with a sub-soil sufficiently hard to cause them to bend and become twisted, for, if they do so, the plants will sicken, turn yellow, and in the end they die. Before finally selecting an area for planting, therefore, samples of the top-soil and sub-soil should be taken at several places about the estate or on the site where the estate is to be laid out, in order to ascertain the general condition of the various layers, the thickness of the top-soil, the quality of the humus on the surface, and of the mould that covers the land generally. The best way to carry out these trials is to sink a thick wood frame, like a box without a top or bottom, to the required depth, and then carefully remove the soil within the sides to another box, this time with a bottom, remembering that what was the top-soil before its removal now lies at the bottom of the box.

Chronically damp soils must be avoided, as anything in the nature of stagnant water around or about the roots of the plants is especially harmful; on the other hand, do not select too porous or loose a soil as the water may evaporate too freely, and that is not desirable, but at the same time there are some highly porous areas frequently met with in the Tropics that form some of the best possible soils on which to lay out coffee estates. Planters and would-be planters, therefore, must ascertain before making a start whether both the top as well as the under soils are suitable for their purpose, and this fact proved whether on the whole, they are likely to prove satisfactory, year in and year out, as regards water supply, drainage, etc.

I dwell rather fully on these points, as the knowledge required for choosing suitable lands on which to lay out a coffee estate is not easily put into a sentence or paragraph. The best coffee soil, for instance, need not be, and, in fact, is not always the kind most suitable for agricultural purpose generally, but the soil we wish to find must contain organic matter and fertilising substances on which the coffee plants can feed, and these are, of course, found in rich soils.

The query has often been raised as to whether the best results are not forthcoming from an estate laid out on jungle (and hence uncleared and hitherto uncultivated) land; others favour a marshy or steppe-like area, provided the moisture does not stagnate, but it is doubtful whether any areas of the nature of steppe-lands are likely to prove suitable for a coffee estate. "In general," Lester Arnold tells us, "a fair idea of the nature of any soil can be obtained by studying the jungle or natural growth found upon it. Scattered *sholas* or clumps of trees, interspersed with expanses of waving lemon grass and similar growth —picturesque as it may be—will never do for coffee since such a growth shows an irregular but generally a shallow soil on layers of rocky sub-soil. In preference to such land we must look for deep, heavy, close-grown jungle-land with soft-wooded trees, such as the sacred fig, or with creepers, tree-ferns, and giant lichens, for where these abound and grow luxuriantly, the earth beneath is certain to be rich in decayed vegetation, and thus fulfil one of the chief requirements of the planter.—*Tropical Life*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

23, Gledhow Gardens,
South Kensington, London S. W.,
30th January, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, U. P. A. S. India.

Coffee.

Dear Sir,—The Controller of Shipping has definitely stated his inability to permit the Shipment of any Coffee from India, and this must be taken as final, for the present. Every possible endeavour has been made, and powerful influences have been brought to bear without effect.

There is great shortage of all kinds of food in England now, and rationing has to be put in force universally. All tonnage is therefore needed to bring the necessaries of life.

The South India Association is now being formed.

Yours faithfully,
BROOKE MOCKETT.

I have urged upon the India Office to arrange that the Troops in Mesopotamia and Palestine shall be supplied with Indian Grown Coffee entirely, and I believe this is being carried out.

No. 1340.

Government of India,
Department of Commerce and Industry,
Simla, the 9th April, 1918.

From
G. S. HARDY, ESQUIRE, I. C. S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To
THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Shipment of Coffee to U. K., South Africa and Persian Gulf.

Sir,—I am directed to reply to your letter of the 27th of March 1918, addressed to the Hon'ble Sir George Barnes, regarding tonnage for coffee.

2. I am to say that the Government of India have not heard of any intention on the part of the Ministry of Shipping to allot freight for the carriage of coffee to the United Kingdom. Should any such allotment be made in the future, instructions would be received from home by the Liners' Conference in Calcutta, and I am to suggest that you should ask them to inform you direct of any instructions they may receive. This will be more expeditious than awaiting a reference from the Government of India who themselves receive most of the information they get regarding shipping arrangements to the United Kingdom either from the Conference in Calcutta or from the Deputy Shipping Controller (Colonel Thomson.) The latter has already been asked to give you all information in his power.

3. So far as exports to the United Kingdom are concerned, I am to say that Collectors of Customs have been instructed only to issue export licenses in respect of consignments certified by the Local Governments of Madras and Coorg and by the Resident in Mysore. Such certificates, as you are aware, are only granted to planters and not to middle men.

4. So far as shipments to South Africa are concerned, your reply to this Department's letter No. 3450-D, dated the 16th March 1918, is awaited.

5. Should your members wish to ship coffee to the Persian Gulf on their own account and not through the agency of the middle men who at present, it is understood, do the bulk of this trade, there should be no difficulty in obtaining freight from Bombay, since three-quarters of the freight space on the majority of the vessels trading between Bombay and Karachi and the Persian Gulf is reserved for foodstuffs.

6. I am to suggest that, should you require any further information as to freight for destinations other than the United Kingdom, you should apply to Colonel Thomson, Deputy Shipping Controller, in Bombay.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
G. S. HARDY,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Mundakayam Planters' Association.
Mundakayam,
Travancore,
S. India.
10th April, 1918.

C.20/18.

Circular letter to all Asssociations and Rubber Growers' in Southern India.

The Rubber Planters' Conference.

Sir,—At the last Meeting of my Association, my Committee submitted proposals for the holding of a Rubber Planters' Conference at Cochin in May and the Meeting resolved on the attached Agenda, which is of course a preliminary one. Should you or your Association desire to put before the Conference any other subject affecting the Rubber Industry of the Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I., I should be glad to receive notice of same on or before Monday, April 29th on which date a final Agenda will be issued.

My Association has invited Mr. J. S. Nicolls, Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. to preside and has asked me to act as Honorary Secretary pending the election of a Secretary at the Conference.

The Conference will be held at Cochin on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—May 7th, 8th and 9th, and I am directed cordially to invite you to attend. The Meeting will be open to all Members of Planting Associations affiliated with the U. P. A. S. I., and Sir Fairless Barber has signified his intention of attending.

I shall be glad to answer any enquiries and give any information at my disposal on hearing from you.

I trust you will endeavour to be present at this important Conference and that I may hear from you to this effect at an early date.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
EDWIN VINCENT,
Honorary Secretary.

The Rubber Planters' Conference.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA.

First Day: Tuesday 7th May, 1918.

At 10 A.M.

1. The Mycologist for Rubber. (Lecture by R D. Anstead, Esq., Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.)

At 11 A.M.

Resolution by the Mundakayam Planters' Association.

"That this Conference of Rubber Growers in South India do and hereby signify their approval and Financial support of the Mundakayam Planters' Association's scheme for a Mycologist for Rubber.

At 2. P.M.

3. The Financial position as it affects Rubber Planters.

(Mr. J. Mackie of Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield, Ltd., Quilon, has been invited to address the Conference on this subject.)

At 3 P.M.

4. Fungoid Diseases (Lecture by W. McRae, Esq., Mycologist to the Government of Madras.)

Second Day: Wednesday, 8th May, 1918.

At 10 A.M.

1. The Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Mundakayam Planters' Association's scheme for the Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I. will be placed before the Conference by Mr. J. R. Vincent.

Third Day: Thursday, 9th May, 1918.

At 10 A.M.

1. Tapping systems and Rubber yields. (Lecture by R. D. Anstead, Esq., M.A.)
2. The shipping position as it affects Rubber Planters. (Mr. E. H. Cooper of Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., Cochin, has been invited to speak on this subject.)
3. The Estate Writers' class at Coimbatore. (Mr. W. McRae will speak on this subject).

4. Election of a member of an affiliated Association to place the decisions arrived at by the Conference before the U.P.A.S.I., Annual General Meeting.

5. Chairman's closing speech.

EDWIN VINCENT,
Honorary Secretary.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA CONTINUED.

The desirability of Local Planters' Associations being incorporated.

Camp No. 16 of 1918.

Kotagiri, 11th April, 1918.

Lime in Agriculture.

Dear Sir,—I am very gratified to note that my recent article on the above subject has met with appreciation, and I congratulate my Arab friend in disguise on his apt capping of my Kipling quotation.

I see no reason to change my opinion that unslaked or quick lime is a "very difficult material to transport and handle", which statement of mine was not a slip, but a considered opinion. Quick lime is a widely used drying agent and gradually absorbs water from even a moist atmosphere, slaking taking place with development of heat, swelling up of bulk, and consequent bursting of bags. If in course of transport such lime is exposed to a shower of rain, mist, or moisture of any sort, there will be a loss from burst bags. Moreover it is difficult material to put out; it absorbs moisture from the hands and burns the finger nails and skin, and being a fine dusty powder, it gets in the coolies' eyes and makes them sore. I have frequently heard complaints of this and of planters giving the coolies oil to rub on their hands and feet by way of protection. Hence the reason for my statement. If these difficulties can be got over well and good.

Another point has been raised in correspondence with me on this subject and that is the possibility of grinding lime stone finely in South India and using it instead of burnt lime. Several points must be taken into consideration when discussing this question.

In the first place the limestones found in South India differ very considerably in composition and a chemical analysis should be obtained of the material it is proposed to use and advice as to its suitability.

In whatever form lime is added to the soil, its physical effect is finally the same and depends on the lime combining with the carbon dioxide present in the soil to form bicarbonate of lime which is soluble in water. This compound causes the flocculation of the soil particles, and by so doing, produces a physical condition of the soil which makes it behave as if it were of coarser texture, allowing of the more rapid removal of excess of water and better aeration. Soils of a heavy clayey nature thus benefit especially from the application of lime. In addition this effect there is, as I have pointed out, the chemical action of the lime and its neutralising effect on acidity.

Now, though the three forms of lime are equally effective in their action on the soil in the above mentioned ways, they do not act equally rapidly,

the more soluble forms, quick and slaked lime, being much more rapid in their action than crushed limestone.

For this reason I, as a general rule, should prefer to use lime in the form of slaked lime rather than as limestone however finely ground, since in most of our soils it is acidity which is to be neutralised, and neutralised quickly.

Could limestone be obtained finely ground at, say, half the present price of quicklime, it would be well worth experimenting with, but at an equal price I prefer the latter in the majority of cases with its rapid action.

In conclusion I might point out that in my opinion the price of burned lime in this part of the world is far too high, while its quality is often poor. I believe that it would pay many planters to import shells or limestone to their estates and burn their own lime, and I know of one estate at least in Mundakayam where lime is burnt rapidly and well at a lower cost than it can be bought on the coast and transported to the estate.

Yours faithfully,

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Cowcoody, Somwarpet,
North Coorg.
April 11th, 1918.

TO THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Lime.

Dear Sir,—Beginning about 8 years ago I have been gradually going through my coffee with shell lime at 1 ton per acre. I think good results are apparent after about 3 years and I also imagine it has improved out turns. One curious thing is that for a year or two after application coffee *seems* actually to go back. I have tried "country" *i. e.* mineral lime but perhaps owing to the magnesia in it neutralising any benefit. I have not seen any good result. I used to get up the shell lime slaked, but on being advised by Mr. Frattini that I was paying for carting up water, I got it unslaked. The result was that the weights were hopelessly wrong (*not* in my favour) and in some cases 30 per cent. was unburnt or partially burnt shells. It suggested India's coral strand rather than a coffee estate, or those beautiful lines of Tennyson "She sells sea shells on the sea shore." This was a case of scientific, practical, and the practical had it. If, in addition air slaking does harm, it is surely better to get the slaking done at once on the coast. Of course these observations are of no scientific value. To get at the real benefit or otherwise, of applying lime to coffee, a series of experiments would be required for, say, the next 30 years. Perhaps Mr. Anstead would like to take this up, in his spare time.

Yours faithfully,

L. NEWCOME.

Government of Madras.

Coffee Loans.

ABSTRACT.

Coffee loans.

Issuing a press communique regarding grant of.....and instructing the Collectors, the procedure to be adopted in granting them.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. Press 1407.

Dated the 11th April, 1918.

Read the following paper :—

ORDER.

The following " Press Communique " will be issued :—

The following information is issued for the guidance of owners of coffee estates desiring to apply for loans from Government, under the Agriculturists Loans Act :—

(1). No loan will be granted except on the production of clear evidence that the applicant cannot otherwise maintain his estate without serious deterioration in its condition and the amount of any loan will be limited to such sum as is essential to enable the applicant after taking account of all other resources to maintain his estate without serious deterioration.

(2). The security for the loan will be the crop, or the land, or both.

(3). Loans will ordinarily be disbursed in instalments, and will be repayable in such manner, and after such period, as may be fixed with reference to the circumstances of each case.

(4). Applications for these loans should be made to the Collector of the district who will, if required, furnish the necessary form of application.

* * *

A. R. KNAPP,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To

The Board of Revenue, Land Revenue.
do Revenue Settlement.
Copy to the Collectors of Coimbatore.
The Nilgiris.
Malabar. with 20 forms.
Salem.
Madura.
Tinnevelly.

Copy to other Collectors.
" Accountant-General.
" the United Planters' Association of Southern India.
" the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber (para 1 only) with C. L.
" Superintendent, Government Press. (para 1 only).

Forwarded to the U. P. A. S. I.

(By order)
W. A. KRISHNAMACHARI,
Acting Senior Superintendent.

THE EDITOR, Fairlands, Sidapur.
Planters' Chronicle. 12th April, 1918.

Proposed Coffee Committee.

Dear Sir,—With the consent of the Chairman U. P. A. S. I. and the support of the S. M. P. A. I have formed a small Committee of 3 Coorg men who are willing to act in the interests of U. P. A. S. I. Coffee Planters, provided other coffee Associations give their immediate consent to the same.

The object of the Committee is to assist the Chairman and Secretary U. P. A. S. I. and to help push matters in the interests of the coffee Planting Community. One of the main objects will be to formulate some workable Scheme by which the sale of our produce in the available markets can be developed.

To formulate a scheme which is likely to receive the support of a majority, possession of the views of not one or two, but of the whole of our U. P. A. S. I. coffee members is necessary and to this end, the latter are asked to send in their suggestions in concrete form. In putting forward these suggestions, members are requested to bear in mind that what the Committee want to know, is a rough outline of the lines on which such a scheme should be worked and the extent to which they would support the selling branch of it, with produce and money, and they must regard this initial support as a fair risk.

The Committee have no concern with matters that are not of general interest to Coffee Planters.

The publication of this letter is with the view of saving time in collecting information and suggestions pending replies from the interested Associations.

Failing unanimous support from these Associations, the Committee falls through.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY G. TIPPING.

Beaulieu Manor, Kotagiri, April 13th.

An Appeal for Books, etc.

Dear Mr. Norton,—May I have a little space in the *Chronicle* for a begging letter?

The ready and splendid response of the Shevaroy Planters to my appeal encourages me to beg from *all the rest of the Planters*—both those whom I know—and those whom I hope to know—not for rupees (tho' I am perfectly willing to accept as many as I could get and use to the best of my ability!) but for books—Magazines and Illustrated papers. There are so many places in Bangalore at present for the help and cheering and comfort of our brave soldiers—and each place needs books. I feel sure that tucked away in book cases and on shelves of planters' bungalows are many volumes that could be spared—many that will never be read again—and if the various districts could each collect and send me even one box.—I shall be very grateful. The boxes should be addressed to me at 8, Cumbridged Road, Bangalore, and the rail receipt sent me by post. I shall be back in Bangalore by the end of May and shall hope to see a goodly store which I will distribute and acknowledge. I would like to add that Books other than Novels are acceptable. I have often been asked for books on Indian customs—history and Flora—also books of travel and astronomy. Thanking you in anticipation.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
(Signed) LOUISE ANSTEAD.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 17.] APRIL 27, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The contents of this issue are largely taken up with the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and include the Chairman's circular letter and the report of the Control Committee subbmitting their scheme.

The Mundakayam Planters' Association have also formulated a scheme which will be a subject of discussion at the Rubber Conference at Cochin next month.

The following telegram from the Secretary of State to the Government of India requires something more than passing notice from Coffee Planters:

"My telegram dated 20th July, 1911. Coffee. War office has purchased 500 tons coffee at Rs. 46 per cwt. free on Board Calicut: payment to be made by demand drafts drawn by Peirce Leslie & Co., Ltd., Calicut. on War Office, banks being asked to provide for Finance. Please arrange accordingly."

We should like to know how many *bona fide* Coffee Planters benefitted by the above price.

We received the following telegram this morning from the Indian Tea Association which we publish at once as it will require concerted action:—

"Income tax. Government have intimated that according to definitions of agricultural income in act, liability to assessment is escaped only if following two conditions fulfilled. First, whole of raw material of the business must be raised from land cultivated. Second, no process must be employed to make the agricultural produce merchantable, other than that ordinarily used by cultivator. Judged by the tests Government hold that profits of tea, sugar, indigo Estates employing modern Machinery processes will ordinarily be liable to assessment. This announcement received here with complete surprise. During discussion of new income tax act in Imperial Council no indication whatever given that it was proposed to endeavour introduce liability income tax in case of agricultural Industries. We are preparing case strongly protesting not only against principle but also against Government arbitrary procedure. Kindly inform if you have been advised similarly regarding Governments proposal and what attitude your Association will adopt. Do Government extend the proposal to coffee as well as tea—Tea.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I

Daverashola Estate,
Devarshola P. O., 16th April, 1918.

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—It will be remembered that at the last annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., a criticism was made by Mr. Lake suggesting that the efficiency of the Labour Department might be maintained and improved at less cost to the Community, and the Control Committee were asked to draft a scheme for the re-organization of the Department. It is on this reference I write to all Planters, whether members of the U. P. A. S. I., or not.

The whole matter has received the careful consideration of the Committee and it has been found impossible to improve the Labour Department, on the lines suggested by Mr. Lake, or to effect any economy on its present basis, as a semi-detached department of the Association. As you are aware, the re-organization of the Association itself, has become a necessity, and it is on this broader basis that the Committee have considered the improvement and more efficient running of the Labour Department. Their object is to form a basis for discussion, and though the scheme which they put forward, expresses their views, and is, in their opinion, the only practical scheme, on which a really United Association can be run, yet they have no desire to force their views on any one, and they recognise, to the full, that the views of the majority should prevail, and for their own part are prepared to accept any scheme which meets with the approval of a majority, and as a minority, would be prepared to accept it loyally.

The Committee, of which I have the honour to be a member, realise that no scheme can be evolved which would be equally acceptable to all and to every District, but they hold the conviction that, in order to secure a really United and Efficient Association, it is necessary that all must be prepared to sink the Individual, in the interests of the Community, and loyally adhere to any scheme which is acceptable to the majority.

I feel sure that every one will agree with their views, and that unity of action, if not of thought, is of paramount importance, therefore it seems to me that the issue before us is simple. We have to decide whether we shall have an Association controlling a strong and efficient Labour Department, serving the interests of all, whatever they may be, or whether we shall have an Association with no Labour Department at all, and which from that very fact, will allow, and even encourage rival organizations to spring up, to deal with the only question, which is of vital importance to every Planter and every product.

I hope then that to this end every Planter in S. India will consider the pros and cons of this alternative, and that we shall agree, whatever the decision may be, to abide by the wish of the Majority.

It is of importance that every Planter should have the opportunity of expressing his views, and to enable this to be done, in a satisfactory manner, I have accepted a suggestion, which has the approval of the Control Committee, and have asked three gentlemen, with diverse interests, to serve on a commission, which will visit every District, and which will be prepared to record evidence.

To facilitate the work of the Commission, it will be advisable to confine the enquiry to a few essential points and I suggest the following:—

1. The re-organization of the Association and what it should entail.

2. The Executive, its composition and election. The present Council being far too cumbersome for effective business.

3. The Permanent Staff.

4. The Scientific and Analytical Departments.

5. The Labour Department, if it be included in the Association.

6. What would be the effect on planting interests in general of an independant or perhaps several independant, labour organizations, uncontrolled by the Association, and working against each other.

7. The Head Quarters.

8. Subscription and form of Subscription.

9. Inclusion of Firms as Members of the Association.

As far as I am aware, only the Control Committee of the present Labour Department have given this subject any formal consideration, so I am circulating a scheme together with an estimate of income and expenditure which after lengthy discussion has received the unanimous approval of the Committee including that of its executive officer.

The only comment I need make is that this scheme has more than met the request made by Mr. Lake.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. NICOLLS,
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

Scheme for re-organisation.

UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

Report of the Control Committee on Resolution No. XXI B passed at the Annual General Meeting held at Bangalore in August 1917.

"That the Director, Deputy Director and Control Committee with "power to add to their number be asked to prepare a scheme of "re-organisation of the Labour Department on a basit of a "subscription of approximately Re. 1 per acre."

The Committee, having considered this Resolution, have come to the following conclusions:—

I. That no scheme for re-organising the Labour Department could be framed that would not entail the re-organisation of the U.P.A.S.I. itself.

II. That unless the whole community gives its support to the Association, the Association must fail to carry out the functions for which it was formed and which in their essence demand unity and combination.

III. That to attain this unity and combination, it is necessary that planters should take a broader-minded view of their responsibilities to others, and should relinquish the "I won't play it you don't do what I want" attitude, which has become so common of late, and should adopt the policy that the interests of individuals must be subservient to the welfare of the Industry.

IV. That the Association, as at present constituted, is inefficient, and throws an annually increasing amount of work on an unpaid executive which the Committee feel should not be tolerated by any self-respecting body of men. That is to say, the activities of the Association have outgrown the powers of its organisation. The Committee feel confident that their activities will tend to increase rather than decrease after the War.

V. While, in the early history of the Association, the Council as at present constituted might possibly have been able to adequately carry on the work at that time, the steadily increasing activities and interests of the U. P. A. S. I. now, render it far too slow and cumbersome, and a small executive committee, with full powers to deal with all matters, is essential.

Accepting the above principles, the Committee put forward the following scheme for re-organisation, which they have drawn up at a considerable expense of time and trouble.

1. That there be an Association combining all the interests of the Planting Industry in Southern India and so bringing all its activities and branches under the control of one Executive.

2. That the Association shall elect a Chairman annually and a Planting Member when that Office falls vacant, at General Meetings.

4. That a General Committee shall be formed, consisting of the Chairman, Planting Member, and one member nominated by each affiliated Association, and that the voting powers of this General Committee be on a subscription basis (*Vide* 10 *infra*).

4. That an Executive Committee be formed consisting of the Chairman, Planting Member and 3 Members, to be elected by the General Committee from amongst themselves, one each to be chosen as representing Tea, Coffee and Rubber.

5. That the Executive have full powers to carry out all the work of the Association with the following safeguards :—

A. That any member, or members, of the Executive may call an urgent meeting of the General Committee, to consider any particular action, taken or contemplated, by the Executive, and the action of the Executive on any particular point may be suspended, from the time such a meeting is called, pending the decision of that meeting.

B. One-third, or more, members of the General Committee shall be entitled to call, at any time, a meeting at one month's notice, to consider the action of the Executive, and the decision of that meeting shall be binding on the Executive.

C. The General Committee shall hold at least one meeting each year in addition to the Annual General Meeting.

6. PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS.—The General Committee and affiliated Associations shall receive copies of all the proceedings of the Executive Committee and the General Committee.

7. PERMANENT STAFF.—To consist of a full, time Secretary, with such European Assistants, as may, from time to time, be found necessary. (The number of Assistants now proposed is five, one of whom is to be at Headquarters, and the other four in Divisions, where the interests of subscribers can best be attended to). Primarily their work will be in connection with Labour, but, they will act, under the direction of the Secretary, in watching all matters that affect planting interests,

8. The Secretary will combine the duties of Labour Director with his other duties, but labour matters will, to a large extent, be decentralised, by making the Divisional Assistants, Managers of their Divisions, under the Secretary's supervision, in place of the present system by which they are assistants to a Director.

9. That while we are of opinion that Madras IS is the most suitable place, for locating the Headquarters, we have suggested Coimbatore as the centre, from which the business of the Association can be most efficiently, and economically, carried out, with the funds at our disposal.

10. The control Committee recommend the following subscriptions:—

Tea	...	Re. 1 8 0 per acre.
Rubber ...	...	,, 1 4 0 ,, ,,
Coffee etc.	...	... ,, 1 0 0 ,, ,,

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Mundakayam Planters' Association,
Mundakayam,
Travancore, S. India,
11th April, 1918.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COUNCILLORS OF THE U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association held on the 12th January 1918, the General Committee of the Association, consisting of Messrs. H. M. E. Howson, R. Harley, H. B. Kirk, T. W. H. Fitchett, and Ashton Hamond, was instructed to draw up a minute on the scheme for the re-organisation of the U, P. A. S. I. and the Labour Department, placed before the meeting by my Chairman, Mr. J. R, Vincent).

The Committee having considered the scheme, presented a minute on it at a subsequent meeting of my Association held on the 6th of April last.

The Committee's proposals were accepted by this meeting and it was decided that the scheme, as hereinafter described, be placed before the Rubber Planters' Conference announced to take place at Cochin on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of May next.

The Minute placed before my Association is as follows:—

THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.

It is assumed that in altering the constitution of the U. P. A. S. I. the main points that require attention are (1) The present cumbersome method of control through the Councillors, (2) The question of a combined or separate cess for the various Departments in future, (3) The location of the Head Office, and, (4) The future of the Labour Department.

(1) *Control.* It is understood that the present system of Councillors (*i. e.* The Honorary Secretaries of Local Associations) shall not be abolished.

It may not be out of place here to explain the present system of control. The Executive consists of the Chairman. U. P. A. S. I., the Planting Member, and a council of 13 members, *viz.*, the Honorary Secretaries of each District Association. To my knowledge this Council has never met and it follows then that questions are brought before them by correspondence, which the Councillors in turn place before their Associations.

It is not difficult to imagine the waste of time that ensues, and the fact will not escape you that in questions of urgency the Chairman and Planting Member must necessarily decide, on their own responsibility, what the attitude of the Planting Industry should be. The position is obviously wrong in principle and the remedy proposed by my Association is that a small Executive Committee of the U. P. A. S. I. should be elected yearly. This Committee should consist of three members, one each elected by the Tea, Coffee and Rubber industries. The Committee thus formed should meet ordinarily once a quarter and should be presided over by the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. elected at the Annual General Meeting. The functions of this Executive would be to advise and guide the Planting Member and the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I., and in urgent cases to decide important questions requiring immediate action. In ordinary matters this Committee would place its views before the Council of the Association as at present constituted before acting, and it is for this reason my Association proposes the retention of the present Council, which would thus act as a check on the Executive Committee, the Planting Member, and the Chairman. In this way the Coffee areas would elect their representative, the Tea areas theirs, and so on, so that each industry would be represented and feel that it at least had some influence in the control of U. P. A, S. I. affairs.

(2) *Cess.*—This Association urgently recommends separate cesses for each Department.

Concisely, the idea of my Association in this matter is that an acreage cess should be levied from all subscribing Associations to cover the cost of working the U. P. A. S. I. alone, and that separate cesses should be levied from those Associations or Estates which wish to subscribe to any particular Department, option being given to all acreages as to whether they subscribe to the various Departments or not. This, of course, is the bone of contention, and, unfortunately, the question has been so treated as to obscure the issue. My Association hopes to see new Departments formed such as an Advertising and Selling Department for Tea and Coffee, etc., etc. The question of cost naturally arises, and so that the scheme may not lack this detail when it comes before the Rubber Planters' Conference, my Chairman has drawn up an estimate of the approximate costs, which is incorporated herein.

The point which my Association wishes clearly to be understood, is the urgent necessity for separate cesses for each Department, so that no acreage and no Association may be asked to subscribe to schemes or Departments of which they have no need, and for which they would naturally be unwilling to pay.

(3) *The Location of the Head Offices.*—We consider it of paramount importance that the Head Office should be located in Madras.

It is inconceivable that so important an industry as that controlled by the U. P. A. S. I. has no home, no building signifying in concrete form the solidity of our community, and the dignity of our position in Southern India. It is in our minds, imperative that a fund should be created for the erection or purchase of a suitable edifice in Madras, where the proposed Executive Committee would meet once a quarter, where all the U. P. A. S. I. meetings would be held, and with Offices serving as a Planting *pied-a-terre* in the Madras Presidency.

There are manifold reasons for the move to Madras which, if known by the detractors of the proposal, would, we think, quickly convince them of its utility. My Association considers that the election of the Secretary of

the U. P. A. S. I. to the Madras Chamber of Commerce would alone justify the move and at once remove the bogey of commercial control feared by some Planters. The move to Madras would facilitate the re-organisation of the *Planters' Chronicle*. No one doubts the possibilities of its becoming a real live Planting paper but few have had a word of praise for it up to the present.

The placing of the *Chronicle* into the hands of the *Madras Mail* or other leading newspaper of the Presidency would not only serve to increase its utility but would relieve the Secretary of a lot of work he at present does. The paper need not be run at a profit though in the hands of an up-to-date man it would quickly command respect in the Planting world and probably more than pay its way.

(4) *The Labour Department.*—The scheme provides for the running of the Labour Department by the Secretary, and thus abolishes the present Directorship, Deputy Directorship, and Head Office expenses.

My Association is of opinion that the inclusion of this Department precludes the acceptance by the Rubber Industry, of the proposals for a combined cess. The Department has failed to give effect to the resolution proposed by Mr. Lake and accepted at the last Annual General Meeting. It has equivocated in so much as its only suggestions for decreasing its cost and increasing its efficiency have been the re-organisation of the U.P.A.S.I. whereby it hopes to gain an increased acreage. The cost of working the Department will remain the same. Our proposal is that a new Secretary be appointed to the U. P. A. S. I. and that, with the help of an assistant, he shall run the Labour Department making the field workers (Superintendents) responsible to him and to the Labour Department Control Committee. This will do away with the costly Directorship, Deputy Directorship, and Head Office expenses, a saving which, as you will see in the attached statement, enables the Department to continue its present activities at a cost approximate to Mr. Lake's demands and with a slightly increased subscribing acreage.

The Labour Department would pay a yearly sum to the U. P. A. S. I. for the work done by the Secretary by way of correspondence, collection of subscriptions, etc., and, naturally the Scientific and any new Department formed would likewise pay a small fee for Office expenses in Madras.

General.—Such is the scheme for which my Association asks support. They wish to recommend that all Local Associations should at once incorporate themselves in order to give a legal status to the industry and to safeguard the parent Association in the collection of cesses, etc. I venture to suggest that as it stands the scheme is the first serious attempt to consolidate Planting opinion, to place the control of the U. P. A. S. I. on a business footing in short to make order out of chaos. The Secretary and his Assistant should run all the above mentioned and any new Departments as much as possible, so as to centralize the Association and relieve the Chairman and the Planting Member of a lot of routine work without, of course, interfering unduly in matters of policy. The generally much-improved organisation, should mean that the Secretary is not overtaxed. His European Assistant will be of immense help to him in conducting the necessarily onerous duties of his office.

I am requested by my Association to send you 25 copies of this open letter for distribution among the members of your Association and cordially to invite your attendance at the Conference, and the attendance of all those

ference, and the attendance of all those members of the Planting Industry who have the welfare of the U. P. A. S. I. at heart, to discuss the proposals now made, and which, we trust, will be of lasting benefit to our community.

I am,
Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
EDWIN VINCENT,
Honorary Secretary, M. P. A.

				Rs.
(1)	Present cost of Labour Department 100,000 acres at 2/- per annum			200,000
	To save on Director per annum at	2,000/-	24,000/-	
	„ save on Deputy Director at	1,500/-	18,000/-	
	„ save on Office expenses (half of present expenses)		12,000/-	
	(See U. P. A. S. I. Expenditure)			54,000
	Balance to be paid by subscribers			146,000
	Extra area estimated to come into Labour Department on cheapening cess, 20,000 acres.			
	120,000 acres at say 1/4 per acre: Rs.	150,000	Surplus	4,000
	Rs...	150,000		150,000

If the present Office expenses come to 2,000 per mensem, by transferring the work to the U. P. A. S. I. Office a saving of 12,000 is expected, and the 12,000 to be spent will all go to help pay for the Central Executive Staff, which will do all the Labour Department Office work.

(2)	Cost of Scientific Officer (Rubber Mycologist) Scheme, say in first year			Rs. 40,000
	Subscription from Travancore Government ...	Rs.	5,000 (?)	
	Cess on Rubber acreage 40,000 acres at 1/- per acre...	„	40,000 Surplus	Rs. 5,000
		Rs.	45,000	45,000

(3) The cost of the U. P. A. S. I. may be placed at Rs. 55,000 (See detailed account).

Present acreage subscribing—

160,000 acres at say 4 annas per acre	...	Rs. 40,000
Subscription from Labour Department	...	„ 12,000
Do other sundries	...	„ 3,000
	Total	„ 55,000

(4) Cess to Coffee areas supporting Labour Department and U. P. A. S. I.— 1/8- per acre
(A saving of 11 annas on previous subscription).
Cess of Tea areas ditto ... 1/8 „ „
Cess to Rubber „ plus Scientific Officer :—...0/4/0, 1/4/0, *plus* 1 ... ... 2/8 „ „

All of the above estimates are necessarily only rough and approximate. They however show a big decrease in cesses to all except Rubber growers. If the amounts to be expended on the U.P.A.S.I. Office be deemed insufficient, it should be remembered that for every additional anna per acre on all subscribing areas, Rs. 10,000 are secured and this should still allow a big saving per acre, even with the most expensive of staffs and management.

U. P. A. S. I.

Ezpenditure.—	Rs.	Rs.
To Secretary's Salary	18,000	
To Asst. do	4,800	
To Allowances to both	2,400	
To Office Salaries	5,000	30,200
To Rent	2,400	
To Postages	750	
To Lighting and Water	200	
To Office charges and Petties	750	
To Stationery	1,000	
To Printing	1,000	
To Telegrams	200	6,300
To Subscription to Madras Government	4,000	
To Laboratory and Analytical Expenditure	2,000	6,000
To Annual Meeting	1,000	
To Other Meetings 1000/- and Executive Committee's expenses 4000/-	5,000	6,000
To Subscription to Chamber of Commerce, Madras ...	150	
To Audits 250—Depreciation 750 ...	1,000	
To Insurance 20—Sundries 130 ...	150	1,300
To Transfer to reserve (on building fund ...	3,000	
To Balance sheet working expenses ...	2,320	5,320
Total Rs....		55,120

Revenue.	Rs.
By Subscription to U, P. A. S. I.	40,000
By Contribution from Madras Government	1,000
By Interest	500
By Contribution from Labour Department	12,000
By Do R. G. Association	120
By Do Rubber Mycologist Scheme	1,500
Total Rs....	55,120

COFFEE.

23, Gledhow Gardens, South Kensington,
London, S.W., 6th March, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary,
The United Planters' Association of Southern India.

DEAR SIR,—After being several weeks without any Mail from India, three or four Mails have arrived together and I have to thank you for your letter of 4th January and for the Book of Proceedings of the U. P. A. S. I.

I am glad that the Secretary of State for India received a Deputation of Planters and was sympathetic, and is even now doing his best to secure space for Coffee. But I agree with you that in this he will not succeed, as the Minister of Shipping is obdurate and all tonnage is required for food stuffs, so he *cannot* grant space for coffee.

I am not surprised at Mr. Montague's knowledge of the crisis through which the Coffee Planting Industry is passing, as this was very fully impressed upon the India Office in representations made by myself and others here and by you all in India. Both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Montague were always anxious to help us but the Minister of Shipping was adamant.

I agree with you that for the present all idea of help and assistance must depend upon the efforts made by the Planting Committee in India with the Viceroy.

I am being pressed by the British Empire Producers Organization as to the contribution to be made to its Funds by the U. P. A. S. I. I wrote to you on this subject on 31st October but have no reply, and the General Secretary, Sir George Makgill, also addressed you, but the Homeward Mails of 21st and 28th December are missing, and your answer was probably in one of these. It is very desirable that this matter should be arranged at once.

The prohibition of the Import of Coffee into India will help Planters, and I suggest action being taken to induce this order being extended to the Persian Gulf, excepting Indian grown Coffee, of course.

I have urged on the authorities here that the Troops in Mesopotamia and Palestine be supplied solely with Indian Coffee. In the case of the former place, Native Boats could take it, and so the Tonnage in general use, would not be interfered with. This might also apply to Palestine.

Yours faithfully,
BROOKE MOCKETT.

I enclose a Circular just received from the Director of Tea Supplies.

Indian Tea Association (London),
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3,
London, 4th March, 1918.

To all Members.

Tea Section JWC/AEB.

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, Westminster,
London, March 1st, 1918.

Dear Sir,—As regards further supplies that the Food Controller is in a position to contract for over and above the 40% already arranged with the Indian Growers, I have to inform you that this Ministry has cabled the Tea Commissioner, Calcutta, to contract for a further certain quantity.

I have to ask you to be good enough to circularise your members and ask them to advise their Calcutta Agents to immediately get in touch with the Tea Commissioner in order to arrange for these further supplies.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) RICHARD PIGOTT,
Director of Tea Supplies.

The Secretary,
Messrs. The Indian Tea Association,
21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3.

Bolloor Coffee Works.
Mangalore, 18th April, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Robusta Coffee.

Dear Sir,—Referring to Mr. P. M. Wilkins's letter regarding the above, in your issue of 6th instant, the following information may, we hope, be of some service.

A couple of years ago, we wrote to consult Messrs. T. H. Allan & Co. about it and they answered :—

> "Regarding Robusta Coffee it is very difficult to give any advice. We believe it would grow very well, but it would have to be done very cheaply as the market is flooded with this kind of coffee from Java, and prices are very low—it would be absolutely fatal to get it mixed with the Mysore Coffee as it would ruin the value of the latter."

We may add that, locally here there is no market, worth the name, for Robusta—Neither Arabs, nor Bombay Merchants care for it and sales are only occastonally possible to retailers, at very low prices. Earlier this season, we sold some at Rs. 125, per candy (cwts. 5-0-16), but a parcel, now on hand for some time, is not asked for at even Rs. 120.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. SALDANHA & SON.

Coffee Allotments.

Letter No. Fl. 5895 of 18th April, 1918, from the Financial Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, To the Chairman, Mysore Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore.

In continuation of letter No. 8079/ I. & C. 137-16, dated 13th February, 1918 from the Secretary, Departments of Education and Agriculture, regarding the inclusion of Coffee in the non-priority cargo that can be shipped when space is available, I am directed to state that the quantity allotted to the Mysore State for which certificates can be issued, has been fixed at 706 tons, and to state that the Government of His Highness will be glad to receive the recommendations of your Chamber in so far as the requirements of the Planters in the State are concerned. It is requested that the subject may be discussed with the various planting interests in the State and recommendations submitted at an early date.

Memo. No. 2384.

Mysore Chamber of Commerce,
Bangalore, 18th April, 1918.

Copy of the above forwarded with compliments to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., Bangalore, for information in continuation of this Office Memo. No. 1789, of the 14th February, 1918.

For the Mysore Chamber of Commerce.

L. S. N. RAMAIYER,
Secretary.

D.O. 185.

Director of Agriculture.
Madras, 12th April 1918.

Estate Writers.

Dear Sir,—I enclose a note on the class for Estate writers recently completed at Coimbatore which you may care to publish in the *Planters' Chronicle.*

Yours sincerely,
G. A. W. STEUART,

To THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association,
Southern India, Bangalore.

Estate Writers' Class.

At the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, eleven writers from eleven estates attended a short course with reference to the control of pests and diseases of planters' crops. Plant diseases:—The first part of the course consisted of a general description of fungi and examples were taken from fungi readily available on any crop. As the men were drawn exclusively from rubber estates the latter part was devoted to the fungi causing diseases of Hevea brasiliensis and to methods of prevention, control and eradication. There were 79 classes of 3 hours each in elementary mycology and the men attended satisfactorily. 7 men put in the full attendance and the greatest number of classes missed by any man, was 6 due to illness. The men were diligent and keen to learn and made satisfactory progress in their study, some of them also taking an active interest in games. At first they were given a short simple course on the construction of plants and the functions of the various parts, the examples being taken from the particular crop under study, in order to give them an idea of how the plant lives under normal conditions of health so that they might understand what a parasitic fungus does to its host plant. Particular attention was paid to showing the various parts of the fungi and their positions in the tissues under the microscope in order that the men might have a direct knowledge of them and be better able intelligently to apply their knowledge in the field to dealing with the various diseases which, of course, was the primary object of the course.

INSECT PESTS. There were 13 classes of 2 hours each and the men attended well and made satisfactory progress. They were taught how to distinguish injurious from useful insects, the nature of the damage caused by insects and approved methods of control. Not much is known yet abont the pests of Hevea in South India, but before another class is held occasion will be taken to tour in the rubber growing districts to study them. It was a short course and relatively little has been done to the subject, still it is a beginning and it is hoped that the men will make use of their knowledge on the estates to good effect. Each Superintendent will have to look after his man carefully and see that he works on sensible lines and not expect too much till the lad gains some experience.

TEA.

Indian Tea Association,
2, Clive Street,
Calcutta, 15th April, 1918.

Circular No. 10.

To

(All members of the Association).

Food Controller.

Dear Sirs,—The Tea Commissioner has received authority to purchase 10 million pounds of 1918 tea, in order to fill the space in April and May steamers, on the same terms as 1917 tea, and firms will be asked to tender.

The terms for the 1917 contract are not yet finally settled but in any case it is probable that some variation will be called for in the 1918 contract, notably in respect of the increased cost of production.

The Committee therefore suggest that gardens tendering should stipulate that the terms, in respect both of price and quantity, shall be those of the 1918 contract, when arranged.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ————————

Assistant Secretary.

———

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 9733—80 T. C.

From

LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C. I. E., I, A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 19th April, 1918.

Gentlemen,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 7226-73 T.C., dated the 8th March, 1918, I have the honour to say that I have received the following instructions from the Food Controller:—

MARKING CHESTS FOR WAR OFFICE.

The Food Controller remarks—

"Insist War Office tea marked black broad arrow, one foot long over mark. Mark on gunny frequently different to mark on package inside."

It is requested that both the chest and the gunny cover should be marked with the standard Broad Arrow, for which stencil plates are provided by Mr. Lloyd.

MARKING OF CHESTS WITH NUMBER OF INVOICE.

The Food Controller cables—

"Please see garden invoice numbers always marked on packages."

I shall be grateful if Shippers will take care that this is done in all cases.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 9781-88 T.C., dated the 19th April, 1918,

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, (South India), Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Tea.

Tea No. 333/18 Custom House, Madras,
22nd April, 1918.

From G. N. Bower Esq., B. A.,
Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras.

To

All Firms Shipping tea to the United Kingdom consigned to the Food Controller.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to inform you that the following cable has been received from the Food Controller :—

"Please see that garden invoice numbers are aiways marked on packages."

I shall be grateful if shippers will take care that this is done in all cases in future.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant.

G. N. BOWER,
Assistant Tea Commissioner.

Rubber.

COPY.

Telegram dated 13th April, 1918.

From

The Ceylon Assóciation in London, London.

To

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo.

Forwarded to the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

For your information following cables exchanged Federated Malay States and London begins from Kualaluimpur local owners contemplate local restriction Committee consider hard cases desire know working your similar committee whether appellants agree beforehand abide by Committee's decision also whether Companies refusing full restriction are accepted if prepared restrict somewhat ends begins from London Scheme being voluntary appellants not bound beforehand to abide by Committee decision. For private guidance appellants here only accepted as agreeing if consenting restrict to seventy per cent. of nineteen eighteen estimate ends,

Copy of letter No. 1734 from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commer and Industry, Simla, dated the 16th April 1918 to the Collector of Customs, Madras.

In supersession of previous orders on the subject, I am directed to state that the Government of India have decided that export of tea from India to the United Kingdom may be allowed in the following circumstances, viz :—

(a) by officers of the mercantile marine subject to the conditions governing importation into the United Kingdom by such officers ;

(b) by passengers up to a limit of 20 lbs. for each passenger if carried as *bona fide* passengers luggage.

Tea No. 271 of 1918.

Copy communicated to

(1) Inspectors of Customs of all circles and Customs, Collector, Cochin.

(2) Editor, " Planters' Chronicle," Bangalore.

G. N. BOWER,
Asst. Tea Commissioner.

Office of the Asst. Tea (Commissioner,)
Madras, 22nd April, 1918.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Pollibetta, Coorg, India,
22nd April, 1918,

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore,

A Method of Killing Trees Quickly.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the very interesting article on pages 192/193 of your publication dated 16th March, 1918. (Vol. XIII, No. 11) on the matter of " A Method of Killing Trees Quickly," after some amount of trouble, I found out that the Agents in Bombay for the " Atlas Preservative " mentioned therein, were Messrs. W. Crowder & Co., Ltd.

Writing to this firm on the 11th instant, I get the following reply, which may be of interest to those seeking for information on the same subject :—" It would seem however on reading your order through as if you want an effective killer for standing trees, but Atlas Preservative " A" will not fulfil this purpose and neither do we know of anything that will do so ?

" Atlas Wood Preservative " A " merely acts as a certain protection for wood, timber, etc. against attacks of white ants, and arrests and prevents fungus, dry and wet rot."

" We would however draw your attention to Atlas Weed and Grass killer in connection with which we hand you herewith an explanatory pamphlet. This speciality is an effective and permanent means for eliminating and destroying weeds of all kinds whether of long standing or recent

growth, and if you have in view the eradicating of certain areas in your Estates, from weeds and short growth, this would undoubtedly suit. To-day's price for Atlas Weed and Grass Killer is Rs. 67/8/- per 5 gallon drum." The Pamphlet going on to remark "Each concentrated gallon, when properly diluted as recommended, will successfully treat 400/500 square feet of surface."

I should be glad if any other of your readers could kindly give us some practical experience bearing on the matter of this Atlas Preservative actually killing trees, as the cost Rs. 67/8/- per 5 gallon drum, is a heavy item unless it is going to prove useful.

I am dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
E. L. MAHON.

Tonnage.

No. 144.

Office of the Shipping Controller,
Royal Indian Marine Dockyard,
Bombay, 23rd April, 1918.

From
THE AGENT FOR THE SHIPPING CONTROLLER IN INDIA.

To
The Secretary,
United Planters' Association,
Bangalore, (South India),

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16th April.

I have been in communication with the Bombay S. N. Co. and they are putting on as many steamers as they can to load from Mangalore to Bombay, before the season closes about the 15th May. I think you can reckon on at least three more sailings before that date.

As far as Basra is concerned, if you can send your Coffee to this port there will be no difficulty in getting freight space onward from Bombay to Basra by the steamers of the British India, S. N. Co.

I have also received copy of a letter from Messrs. Stanes & Co., Coimbatore. This is with reference to the provision of railway wagons to carry Coffee to Mangalore. I regret I cannot interfere in this matter, as the supply of wagons is in the hands of the Controller of the Railway Traffic, Simla, if Stanes & Co. have any difficulty in securing the necessary wagons they must make formal application to the Controller of the Railway Traffic, Simla.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
JAS. W. THOMSON,
Agent for the Shipping Controller.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 19.] MAY 11, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish an interesting Bulletin written by Mr. C. H. Sampson, Deputy Director of Agriculture and issued by the Department of Agriculture, Madras,

We reproduce from the "Tropical Agriculturist" a paper by Professor James Hendrick, S. Sc. F. F. C on the growth of International Trade in manures and foods which is of such historic value to the Agriculturist that we shall continue it.

Mr. G. K. Martin contributes a further letter on Coffee Markets which should receive the serious attention of Coffee Planters. His suggestions merit grave consideration and have in them the germs of a great success if combination and support can be secured.

A telegram from the Indian Tea Commissioner for India to the Food Controller, London, is published and a letter from the Madras Government regretting that the Deputy Controller of Shipping finds it impossible to provide extra Coasting Steamers before the monsoon.

Very sincere sorrow will be felt by all Planters, especially those of Coorg, at the passing away of Mr. C. E. Murray Aynsley, one of the best of the old school. We ne'er shall see his like again. A great sportsman and English Gentleman.

In the issue of the 4th instant please read Proceeds of Collection Box at Mrs. J. Morgan's "Tennis at Home" April 27th, Mercara.

The Honorary Secretary, Bangalore Soldiers Aid Committee, asks us to publish the following name of subscriber and thank him for his generous contribution :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Mr. Talbot Cox	50	0	0
Already acknowledged	498	0	0
Total Rs...	548	0	0

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged	70,546	0	0
Mr. J. J. Murphy	100	0	0
Mr. Stephen Bayly	10	0	0
Total Rs...	70,656	0	0

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MADRAS.

The Coconut.

Frequent requests are received by the department regarding the planting and care of coconut topes and although little work has as yet been done by the department on this crop, the following information may be useful. It is hoped that in time when more information is available a more detailed note will be substituted for this.

Seed nuts.—It is generally admitted that seed nuts should be collected from middle aged, rather than from young or old trees, i.e., they should be selected from trees which are from 35 to 45 years old. In selecting nuts, care should be taken to see that all the trees in the garden, from which nuts are to be taken, are healthy and vigorous. The soil on which they are grown should be well drained and there should be no signs of water logging in the garden. Only those trees should be selected which bear regularly and have well filled bunches under ordinary conditions of cultivation. This point is often neglected. Many people select seed nuts because of their individual size. This is a mistake because nuts on badly filled bunches are usually bigger than those on well filled bunches. Therefore, by selecting big nuts there is a tendency to select trees which are not prolific. Care should also be taken to select nuts from trees where the bunch stands out from the tree and does not droop. A drooping bunch has a long stalk and as the bunch becomes heavy the weight is apt to bend the stalk. The result is that the sap cannot freely flow to the bunch and the nuts do not fil and ripen properly. Nuts which are required for seed should be left on the tree until quite ripe and should then be lowered from the tree by means of a rope and should not be allowed to drop. Before planting, the nuts should be thoroughly dried in the shade for a month or six weeks. If the weather is dry they can be heaped in a dry place in the shade where they are exposed to the air and wind. If the weather is wet they can be stored in a well-ventilated, dry shed. On no account should they be allowed to become damp and mouldy when being stored.

The seed bed.—There are three essentials for a seed bed and great care should be taken in selecting a site for the same: (1) There should be very free drainage. (2) It must be in a place immune from white ant attack. This can, however, be to some extent checked by manuring with ashes and common salt which should be well mixed with the soil of the nursery. (3) It must be slightly shaded so as to keep the ground cool.

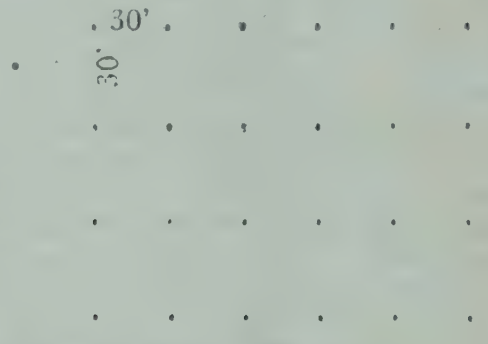
The usual practice for planting nuts in the seed bed is to plant them vertically with the end where the nuts was attached to the bunch pointing upwards. The nuts are placed about six inches apart and the space between them is filled with sand till only the top of the nut is left exposed. The subsequent treatment consists of watering and watching against white ant attack. Whether this upright method of planting is the best or not, has not been proved. It is, however, the general practice although Nature plants the nuts lying on their sides, i. e., natural position which a nut would take if it were allowed to fall from a tree and germinate where it fell. The shoot appears from three to nine months after planting and at the same time the roots which are given off outside the nut force their way through the fibrous covering of the nut and through the husk into the ground. Sometimes such nurseries are left as they are and the seedlings removed directly from this nursery to where they are to be planted out.

There is also a practice, however, of removing these from the first nursery and planting them in a second nursery and spacing the plants one foot apart. This latter method is probably preferable as there is not so much fear of damaging the young root system when these seedlings are removed from a wider spaced nursery for planting out.

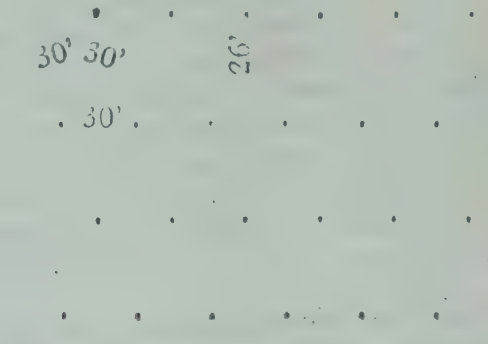
Planting out.—In planting out, spacing the trees at proper distances is a most important point and in discussing this it is necessary to know something about the habits of the tree and to know what the tree requires to enable it to thrive. People who have studied the habits of trees have divided them into two groups, viz., those which when grown up must have light to enable them to thrive properly and those which can thrive under the shade of other trees. The former have been called 'light demanding' trees and the letter 'shade bearing' trees. The teak tree is a light demanding tree and the jack tree or mango tree is a shade bearing tree. That is to say you can grow jack trees under the shade of teak trees, but you cannot grow teak trees under the shade of jack trees. In the same way the coconut tree is a light demanding tree and must have plenty of room if it is to thrive, so that all its leaves are in the full sunlight. Now the coconut tree differs greatly, from a teak tree, in habit. The former has only the one stem and never forms branches. If a teak tree is crowded by other trees many of its branches may die, but as long as a portion of the tree can get out of the shade that portion will continue to grow and develop. The coconut tree is therefore at a disadvantage and though it may not actually die, its growth will be greatly checked and it will never bear fruit as long as it is shaded by other trees. It cannot develop certain of its branches and let others die because it has not got any branches, and the only way it can manage is for the whole stem to grow out towards the light if this is possible. Thus you often see small gardens grown on raised lands in the midst of paddy fields where the trees are planted close together, but where on all sides the stems have bent out towards the light. In the same way avenues of coconuts along the road sides, you will see that as the trees grow very few of them grow up straight, unless they are given plenty of room, but are bent one way or the other so that each can get the maximum amount of light. Now if you are planting up a garden and the trees are equidistant from each other, only those trees on the margin have a chance of getting plenty of light, unless sufficient space is given to each tree to develop its crown without being shaded by other trees. The space between two trees should therefore be at least twice the length of the leaf of a well developed tree. The length of the coconut leaf varies from about 14 to 16 feet and the space between two trees therefore should at least be twice this distance, *i.e.*, 28 to 32 feet apart.

We have seen how much space is necessary for the cocount tree as far as its crown is concerned, *i.e.*, sufficient so that all the leaves can get the full sunlight and we will now examine the roots of the coconut tree. If you remove the soil from around the stem of a coconut tree you will notice two things, *viz.*, (1) all the roots which come from the bole *i.e.*, the base of the trunk) are of the same thickness. (2) These roots vary much in age, some are old and dead, others are dark red and look old, but are still alive, others again are light red in colour and are apparently quite young. From this you rightly conclude that this tree has the power of forming new roots from the bole as these are required. Now if you examine the roots of any tree which forms branches you will find that the roots which lead to the bole are few in number and many of them are very thick and appear to be as old

as the tree. These do not die off as in the case of the coconut and no new roots leading from the bole are to be seen. The coconut therefore differs from such other trees in that it is constantly forming a new root system which starts from the bole. These roots, as they grow, range through the same soil that the old roots, which have died, formerly did. If, therefore, you can supply these roots with plant food in the form of manure it is more or less immaterial how much space of ground the roots of the coconut tree have, as long as the leaves have plently of sunlight. Therefore, in planting, your object is to get as many trees to the acre as possible, while at the same time fulfilling the conditions mentioned above. The ordinary method of planting is as shown below, each dot representing a tree :—



That is to say, planting 30' by 30' apart you have 48·4 trees to the acre. If, however, you plant in the following method you can still have your trees 30 feet apart yet have 8 more trees to the acre.



Many people who have not studied the coconut tree will object to such wide planting. In fact, in many parts of the Presidency, where the profit from coconut cultivation is not realized, one sees as many as, if not more than, 100 trees per acre. If such people will walk through these gardens and note which trees are bearing a full crop of nuts, they will find that it is only those trees which have got their heads well above their neighbours. If they will count such trees they will realize that they are not getting nearly as much out of their gardens as they would if they had only 56 trees all in full bearing.

The question of spacing has been dealt with fully because the whole future success of the garden depends on this, not only from the point of yield, but also from the point of view of the healthiness of the trees and their immuuity from insect and fungus disease.

The site for a garden.—If the soil is deep and is naturally well drained it does not seem to matter what the soil is. Though, to fulfil the latter condition there must be a fair proportion of sand or gravel in the soil. The coconut does not like a badly drained soil with stagnant water either on or

beneath the surface and, though it may grow, it is short lived and liable to disease. It is in such places that the bleeding disease is usually found. One often sees gardens established in wet lands and unless these are at a high level they usually show signs of disease.

Many people again attempt to establish gardens on saline land. They know that the coconut thrives in land containing common salt, but they seem to forget that the salts present in saline land are often not common salt and that the land is saline because the underground drainage is deficient. The coconut however will thrive in moist situations, provided there is ample drainage with free water movement in the soil and consequent aeration. The coconut appears to thrive and fruit better in the open than in secluded valleys which are protected from the wind, provided the soil is deep. The reason for this is that the tree takes up water from the soil by means of its roots. This water contains the plant food, which helps the tree to make the nuts. The more water therefore that the tree takes up the more food is absorbed. The amount of water taken up is limited by the amount the tree can hold and can get rid of. The tree gets rid of this excess moisture through pores in the leaf and these pores open only in bright light. Therefore, somewhat in the same way as a cloth hung in the wind quickly dries so these leaves when exposed to the wind and light get rid of excess moisture more rapidly, leaving the plant food behind in the tree.

In planting a garden the main object is to get the trees established as soon as possible. Anyone who has attempted to grow coconuts realizes that there are two dangers to the young seedlings: one is the hot weather and the other is white ants. The sooner therefore the tree becomes established the less likely is it to be killed by these two causes. A tree when once it has got its roots down does not mind the hot weather. Its roots are where the soil is cool and where there is ample moisture and at the same time it protects itself from white ant attack as these insects rarely attack any healthy growing plant.

The holes for planting therefore should be large—3' x 3' x '3—and these should be made at least a year before planting so as to allow the excavated soil to weather. Some three months before planting these holes should be filled up again keeping a little of the surface soil to one side to fill in round the seedling when planted. If the soil is inclined to be heavy the bottom of the hole is often filled with prickly-pear which, when the hole is filled in, ensures drainage for the young plant. Wood ashes also are often mixed with the soil before it is filled in. Salt also is sometimes mixed with the soil as this is said to ward off white ant attacks.

The points to be kept in mind in planting are:—(1) That there should be free drainage for the roots of the young seedling and no water should be allowed to stagnate round the young tree. (2) The soil round the young roots must not be allowed to become too hot in the hot weather. (3) Soil must not be allowed to cover the growing point or bud of the young tree. From these we can deduce the following rules:—(1) The heavier the soil, the nearer to the surface of the land must the seedlings be planted. Sometimes it is even necessary to plant on slightly raised mounds. (2) The heavier the soil, the more moisture it will retain and the presence of moisture tends to lower the temperature in the soil. The converse of these two rules also hold true:—the lighter the soil the further below the surface

of the land must the seeding be planted provided there is free drainage. The lighter the soil the less moisture is there near the surface and the hotter these soils become in the hot weather. This means to say that on heavy land the seedling must be planted on or above the level of the land and as the soil gets lighter the seedling must be planted in pits below the level of the land.

When planting is done in pits the following points have to be remembered :—(1) If the soil is loose, the sides of the pit must be sloped so that these do not fall into the pit when there is heavy rain. (2) If the soil is very loose, care must be taken to see that the wind does not fill up the pit with sand. This can be prevented by putting up a fence made of a plaited coconut leaf round the seedling or to the windward side of the seedling. (3) That the seedling is planted at the south side of the pit and that the soil at the bottom of the pit slopes away from the seedling.

This will prevent water logging immediately round the seedling and will also to some extent protect the seedling from the sun.

The question of watering the seedling depends very much on the soil conditions and season of planting. If the pit has been properly prepared, the planting has been done at the commencement of the rainy season and the seedling has been carefully raised from the nursery without much damage to the roots, watering may be altogether unnecessary. On light sandy soils, however, if may have to be resorted to. In this case a leaf mulch on the surface, provided white ant attack is not feared, will save much watering. Another method which is sometimes adopted is to sink a chatti in the ground near the young plant and keep this filled with water.

It must be remembered that newly planted seedlings have much to do before they are established. Their roots are always damaged to some extent when raising them from the nursery and these have to be repaired or new roots have to be formed. In order to provide the material to do this the leaves must have as much light as possible and the practice of tying up all the leaves within a plaited coconut leaf which is often done is therefore to be avoided. Until the young plant is properly established, it has not a full flow of sap and is therefore always liable to attack from insect and fungus pests. One of the principal pests is the rhinoceros beetle, which breeds in cattle manure and heaps of decaying vegetable matter. Therefore all manure and rubbish heaps should be removed from the neighbourhood of a young tope.

The young plantation may usually be considered to become established in the third year and up to this time it is necessary to keep the surface weeded and hoed immediately around the young plants. Both these operations tend to conserve the soil moisture for the coconut plant. If available a small quantity of house ashes should be applied around the young trees. When planting is done in pits below the land level, the young trees will be big enough for the pits to be filled in and levelled when three years old and from that time forward the whole area should be brought under cultivation and the surface soil kept loose and free from weeds. If the surface is uneven this should, if it was not done before the plantation was started, be laid out in terraces and surrounded by well made bunds if the soil is light. The removal of weeds and the surface cultivation will help to conserve the moisture which the bunds hold up on the land.

In many places in order to pay for the cost of cultivation of the garden as well as to bring in some income from the land before and even after the coconuts commence to bear, subsidiary crops are grown such as tapioca, pulses, ragi, etc. As far as short duration crops such as pulses, ragi, etc,, are concerned there is no apparent objection to their cultivation provided always that the land is brought under fallow ploughing as these are harvested, but probably the cultivation of long duration crops such as tapioca is not a sound practice if the owner of the garden can afford to forego the immediate profit from this crop. The main aim is to bring the garden into bearing and if this is kept in mind it means that all available manure should go to the coconut trees and all cultivation should aim at conserving as much of the soil moisture as possible for these trees.

Manuring.—There is no doubt that the coconut responds very readily to manuring and any one who has any doubt on this point has only to notice how well trees thrive, in the neighbourhood of human dwellings where the trees make use of house cleanings as well as the droppings of cattle and human beings. No experimental work has, however, been done in this Presidency with different manures or with different methods of applying manures and the following information is based on observation of existing agricultural practice. On the West Coast, ashes is the chief manure used. There are two main methods of applying it. If a subsidiary crop is raised, and in this district it is usually tapioca, the whole area is manured with ashes with the idea, not only of manuring the tapioca, but also that the coconut will benefit by the residual value of the manure. If no subsidiary crop is grown the ashes are applied around the base of the tree, Either rubbish is placed in a circle near the base of the tree and there set on fire or more usually ashes are collected and applied, In well kept gardens these ashes are applied annually at the commencement of the rains, The soil is dug and removed from around the base ot the tree to a depth of about 6—9 inches and to a distance of about 4 feet. To this exposed surface the ashes are applied : sometimes the soil is immediately returned but more often this shallow pit is not filled up till the end of the monsoon. In this digging round the tree many of the old roots are purposely severed, and thus the tree has to make new roots to take their place and these, growing out from the trunk, naturally find and make use of the manure applied round the base of the trees. Very often these ashes are covered with leaf manure which soon rots and forms mould in the monsoon rains. Sometimes also cow gram is sown round the tree, the plants of which after providing vegetables to the household are covered in as manure.

In places in the Godavari delta crops of sunnhemp are raised in the coconut garden which are dug in as manure and such a practice is probably suitable for all gardens where the soil is inclined to be heavy. Not only does it supply available plant food, but it maintains the soil in a mellow condition which is essential to proper æration of the soil, which, in its turn, is essential for the health and vigour of the tree.

Cattle manure is in some cases used, but is usually applied by tethering cattle under the trees. Its general use is often objected to in that the rhinoceros beetle finds in this a breeding place and no insect-pest is so much feared in a healthy garden as this beetle. By tethering, however, the cattle manure is well trodden and finely divides so that it soon becomes a part of the soil and hence is not so likely to harbour the larva of this beetle.

Of recent years fish manure has been used as a manure, applied at the rate of about 7 lb. to 10 lb. a tree, and has given good results. Its use is likely to extend.

It has been frequently observed that young trees which are well manured commence to bear much earlier than trees which receive no special treatment. Many people, however, raise the objection that this shortens the life of the tree. Even if this statement is correct it is as well to examine the question from a money point of view. It is possible by manuring to get trees into bearing at 5—6 years of age. If such gardens were not manured they would probably taketwelve to fifteen years to come into bearing. We can safely set the value of any manure applied against the cost of maintaining the garden for another 6—9 years, during which time practically no income is derived, On this basis the money spent on the two gardens is the same. However if one takes the capitsl cost of raising the garden at Rs. 100 per acre (excludiug the value of the land(; at 5 per cent compound interest this amounts in six years to Rs. 134 and in twelve years to Rs.180 and in fifteen years to Rs.207 and this is the real capital cost of the plantation.

The age to which a coconut tree lives is not really of much importance. We may safely say that all coconuts will live and and thrive till they are sixty years old provided they are planted on suitable ground and are well looked after. Therefore when the trees are from forty to fitty years of age, it is time to think of replanting the garden. Now although some trees, as has been stated, are light demanding, Nature has made provision that in their early growth these can bear shade. The natural way in which trees propagate is by seed which falls to the ground and in many cases this seed by its weight falls within the shade of its parent, hence Nature has provided for this contingency and such trees in their youth can stand a certain amount of shade. Hence there is no objection to planting young coconuts in the shade of old coconut trees.

The spacing should be the same as in the case of the original planting, but intermediate between the original trees. When this second generation is grown to a sufficient age to bear, they will require light and the older trees can be judiciously thinned out until finally they are all removed. This is where many people make a mistake. They think, because an old tree is still bearing a fair crop it should be allowed to remain, but they forget that it is bearing this crop at the expense of a younger and more vigorous tree, which is only waiting till it receives its proper requirement of light to more than make up the loss incurred by the removal of the order tree.

Finally as a word of warning never mix coconuts with other tall growing trees which are likely to over-shadow them. If such trees are required, plant them on separate ground, or, if such trees, exist, prune them heavily so that their shade does not interfere with the light requirements of the coconuts.

H. C. SAMPSON,

20th August 1917. *Deputy Director of Agriculture,*

V and VII Circles, Trichinopoly.

SOILS AND MANURES.

The Growth of International Trade in Manures and Foods.

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There are few people who realise how great is the international trade in manures and materials which go to make manures, and what enormous strides it has made during the past few years. Many know that there is an immense volume of trade in foods, which employs millions of tons of shipping: and we have all been brought during the past few months, under the perils of the world war, to realise the vital importance of this trade to the United Kingdom. There are still many, however, who seem to think that we have depended since time immemorial on overseas sources for our food supplies, and who neither understand the extent to which this trade has developed since the last great world war was fought, just over a century ago, nor how unprecedented are the present conditions of food supply, especially in this country, nor how greatly these new conditions have modified our military position and security. The present enormous volume of international commerce in manures and foods is practically a growth of the last century, and mainly of the last fifty years.

It is the intention to deal in this paper especially with the trade in manures: but manures and foods have been taken together since they are very closely interrelated, and even, to a certain extent, interchangeable. When the farmer applies manures to the soil, he does so to increase his crops—that is, to increase the quantity of food raised from his soil. Therefore if we import manures, we do so to increase the volume of food produced in the country: and by importing manure we increase the national supply of food and render it unnecessary—other things being equal—to import so much food. Also, the weight of fertilising material is not nearly so great as the increased weight of food which is raised by its aid; and thus by importing fertilising materials, up to a certain point we save shipping, for a far smaller tonnage will carry the manures than would be necessary to carry a weight of food equivalent to the increase which we expect to obtain by the use of the manures.

Conversely, when we import fooodstuffs, we are importing manurial material, for every foodstuff has a certain manurial value, and when imported from abroad it brings to our shores manurial constituents drawn from the soil of the country where it was grown. No doubt much of this imported foodstuff is consumed in towns, and its manurial value is squandered down our sewers into the sea! but certain parts—such as the offals derived from the milling of cereals, and the oil-cakes obtained from the crushing of oil-seeds—are used to feed stock, and the manurial value is, or should be, largely recovered in the dung of the farm. Hence farms which consume much imported foodstuff should not require to consume so much imported manure.

For many years we have been in a general way, conscious of the importance of our overseas commerce in foodstuffs, and of the danger which would arise in case of war if our importation of foodstuffs should be interfered with; but neither our statesmen nor the people except in the case of a few exceptional individuals, had knowledge, foresight, and imagination enough to realise adequately the position or to take in advance the measures which might have been taken to provide safeguards against the dangers which have now arisen. This lack of foresight and technical knowledge has been shown not merely in regard to the direct supply of foodstuffs from abroad, but in the failure to safeguard the supply of manures by which the produce of our

land at home is maintained, and to foster and promote the increased use of manures by which the produce of our soil is increased. For instance, to take only two examples, the outbreak of war found us almost entirely dependent on Germany for potash manures, and little or nothing had been done in the past to explore and develop home sources of potash compounds : and in recent years industries have been developed in other countries for the preparation of synthetic nitrogen compounds, the world-wide importance of which has, in nearly all great industrial and agricultural countries except Britain, attracted the intense attention of statesmen and capitalists. Here these new industries have merely been smiled at as the play of theorists and men of science.

MANURES.

Early History.—There has always, since international commerce existed at all, been international trade in foodstuffs, and, especially in earlier times, in the more expensive and less essential foodstuffs, but international commerce in fertilisers may be said to have originated about 1840. Before that date the bulky and locally produced dung and lime were almost the only fertilisers. A certain amount of trade in bones existed before that date, and there was probably a small amount of trade in other refuse materials of animal origin and in oil-cakes which were used as manure. By 1840 agricultural chemistry had made considerable progress. Much had already been learned as to the requirements of plants and as to the sources from which they derived the constituents which they needed. The time was ripe for practical applications of the knowledge which had been gained, and the necessary scientific stimulus was given by the great German chemist LIEBIG, who propounded his theory of manuring, which attracted much attention and led to much discussion and experiment. At the same time the introduction of Peruvian guano supplied a concentrated manure of a unique kind which more readily attracted the attention of practical agriculturists than purely chemical substances like superphosphate and ammonia salts, which began to be used about the same time.

Guano is said to have been used in Peru as a fertiliser before Europeans discovered America. It was first brought to Europe about 1804 by the famous traveller HUMBOLDT,* but it was not till 1839 that it began to be imported in bulk. Its use was a revelation to people who had been accustomed only to bulky manures like dung, or to show-acting manures like bones. There is no manure on the market at the present day of such all-round excellence as the Peruvian guano, which was obtained from the Chincha islands, and contained about 14 per cent. of nitrogen, together with 20 per cent. or more of phosphates and a little potash. It contained these constituents in a highly available state, much of the nitrogen, phosphate, and potash being water soluble, and the remainder in readily available forms. It was also in its favour, in the estimation of ordinary farmers, that it was a natural manurial material derived mainly from the dung of sea-birds. Birds' dung has been held in high regard since time immemorial as a fertiliser, and the fact that this wonderful new manure was composed of birds' dung, and had a strong manurial smell, undoubtedly helped it to come rapidly into favour among farmers. Be that as it may, no concentrated manure ever sprang more rapidly into extensive use than

* SIR HEMPRY DAVY in his ELEMEMTS OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY, 1813, mentions guano as "the manure that fertilises the sterile plains of Peru" and states that he had tried experiments with some specimens sent to the Board of Agriculture in 1805.

guano,* and that with a generation quite unfamiliar with concentrated manure. Its introduction did more to accustom farmers to the idea of concentrated fertilisers and their use than anything else could have done. Naturally, it met with opposition and ridicule but still people tried it, and probably no amount of writing and teaching could have so rapidly taught the agricultural public a great new lesson in the use of manures as did the placing of guano on the market. Its opportune introduction probably did more to advance the use of concentrated manures throughout the country than all the work of the early experimenters and all the writings of the agricultural scientists of the period.

It is difficult to get accurate figures of the production and consumption of fertilisers in the early period of the industry, and in the case of many manures it is not till after 1880, or even after 1900, that any complete statistics are available. Before that time the main deposits of Peruvian guano were worked out. It is said that so rapidly did the use of guano increase that by 1855 over 400,000 tons per annum were exported from South America, of which about 200,000 tons were used in the United Kingdom. Some estimates placed the consumption in the United Kingdom much higher. During the height of the Peruvian guano trade the export reached about half a million tons per annum, but as the deposits were limited, they soon began to be worked out, and after 1870 the industry began to decline. Even in 1855, DR. T. H. WAY, chemist to the Royal Agricultural Society,† stated. "Although importations of guano are enormous, the supply is not always equal to the demand." It is interesting to note, however, that according to the prices he gives for manures in that year, guano was much cheaper per unit of nitrogen than either nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia, and much cheaper per unit of phosphate than bones, ground coprolites, or superphosphate. Though other parts of the world were ransacked for guano, and deposits were worked in many places other than Peru, the industry fell away to comparatively small proportions after 1880. The Peruvian guano industry was the international manure industry which involved a great overseas commerce, and employed a large fleet of ships.

Meantime other manure industries, which were destined to reach even greater dimensions and to be more permanent, had been founded and were gradually extending. Of these, the most important was the dissolved phosphate industry. In 1836, LIEBIG suggest the dissolving of bones by acid in order fo make them more available to plants. According to SMETHAM,* MESSRS. T and H PROCTOR of Bristol entered into communication with LIEBIG and BOUSSINGAULT, and began, before 1840 to place dissolved phosphates made from bones, bone ash, and bone black upon the market. Soon afterwards LAWES began to dissolve ground coprolites and started at Deptford the first factory for the manufacture of mineral superphosphate. This new industry at first grew slowly, as it was quite eclipsed by the rapid rise of the guano industry; and it was not till the supplies of guano began to fail that the manufacture of mineral superphosphate increased to really great proportions, and that a world-wide trade in raw mineral phosphate for the manufacture of snperphosphate arose.

*JOHN SHIER, in his edition of DAVYS' ELEMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY, published in 1844, gives a long account of guano, which, he states, "within the last few years has been largely imported into Britain, and.....it is generally esteemed the most valuable of extraneous manures."

†JOURNAL ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, XVI, 540, 1856.

* JOUR. SOCY. CHEM. IND. XVII, 900, 1898.

It was about 1840 also that the use of ammonium salts as manure gradually arose, and about the same time nitrate of soda which was already being imported into Europe from South America for other purposes, began to be tried as a fertiliser. The use of these increased slowly during the period when guano was the supreme concentrated manure.

This early period in the use of artificial manures extended from about 1840 and during it, though much experimental and scientific work was carried out on the Continent. Britain was the great home of the manure industry, and was the pioneer and most extensive user of artificial manures. During the period our knowledge of the requirements of plants and of the effects of manures was greatly extended,—in Britain by the work of the Rothamsted Experiment Station, founded and carried on by SIR JOHN LAWES, and by the experimental work carried on under the auspices of the great Agricultural Societies and by many private individuals: and on the Continent by the many Agricultural Research Stations and Agricultural teaching institutions which had arisen mainly with state support. During this period Britain was also supreme in the practice of agriculture, and was looked up to by other countries, not as at present merely as the great breeding-place for pure-bred stock, but as the leading exponent of good arable farming.

While it is difficult to get any accurate statistics of the increase in production per acre which took place about the middle of the nineteenth century owing to the use of guano and other concentrated manures, evidence is given in the writings of the period that such increases, which have been estimated at 50 per cent. did take place. Thus the distinguished agriculturist and President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, PHILIP PUSEY, in his last published paper, † gives the following quotation from a Norfolk corn-dealer's circular: "The yield of wheat has gradually increased during the past four years, mainly through the use of artificial manures used as top-dressings, that it is difficult to define what is an average crop;" but PUSEY himself adds, "Over the greater part of England no one would say that this practice, even if known has become an ordinary act of husbandry." He then goes on to make the statement that if our "French neighbours and friends" would adopt the practice, it would be an "easy method of preventing deficient crops from which France has lately suffered." This seems to indicate not only that an increase of crop might be obtained by the use of artificial manures, but that these were not used in France as they were, in parts at any rate, of Britain.

From the beginning of the nineteenth century Britain was looked up to by Germany and other Continental countries as the home of good arable farming and probably no part of Britain had a greater reputation in this respect than the South East of Scotland. After the introduction of artificial manures crop production seems to have increased considerably in those parts of the country where these manures were used, and for all the period from the beginning of the century up till, at any rate, 1880 we retained a high reputation for production per acre of all the leading crops we grow.

After 1880 the great period of agricultural depression set in, and arable forming began to decline in Britain. It is not the purpose of this paper to deal with the decline of agriculture in Britain and its causes, but the result has been that, in the modern period between 1880 and the presen day, when the fertiliser industry rapidly grew to a great world industry, employing immense numbers of people in the mining, manufacturing, and transport of

† JOURNAL ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY XVI. 532-3 1856.

fertilising materials, Britain has only developed slowly as a manufacturer and user of artificial manures, and has been overtaken and passed by other countries, till now we occupy a quite secondary place in the world's fertiliser markets, in which at one time we were supreme. The enormous increases which have taken place in the production, transport, and consumption of fertilisers have been due almost entirely to the rapid advance of other countries, and this, as will be shown later, has re-acted on our crop-producing capacity as compared with others. It is not so much that we have gone back, as that others have gone forward rapidly, while we have relatively stood still and allowed them to pass us. Several countries which started much behind us have now caught us and passed us by as manufacturers, importers, and users, of fertilisers, and, consequently, as producers of crops.

We may next take in order the leading artificial manures, aad trace the growth in their production and use, so as to bring out how rapidly the fertiliser industry has been developing, especially since the beginning of the twentieth century. As has been already pointed out, the industry increased only gradually except in the case of Peruvian guano, till after 1880, and was chiefly a British industry. After 1880 other countries rapidly came to the front as users of fertilisers,—first, the leading countries of Western Europe Germany. France, Belgium, Holland, etc.. in which there were well-developed systems of agricultural education and research, began to reap the fruit of the systematic training of their people in agricultural science which along with other factors, led to a very rapid increase in the consumption of fertilisers : second. new countries like the United States, which had paid little attention to fertilisers so long as they had plenty of virgin soil to break up, began to pay attention to the subject, and have rapidly become great manufacturers and users of artificial manures ; and third, ancient Eastern countries like Japan and India have become important markets for fertilisers.

In recent years it has become easy to obtain statistics of the international use and production of manures, since the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, collects and publishes such figures. These are to be found in the half yearly reports on "International Movement of Fertilisers," published in the September and March numbers of the "Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases" issued by the Institute, and in the "Annuaire International de Statisque Agricole," issued by the Service de la Statisque General of the Institute. The Bureau of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases of the Institute. also issued in 1913 a pamphlet entitled "Production et Consommation des Engrais Chemiques dans le Monde." All these publications have been drawn upon for the statistics which follow

The admirable statistics issued by the International Institute, however, take us back, as a rule, only to 1903 or 1905. The Institute was itself established under International treaty in 1905. If earlier information is wanted. it has to be collected with much trouble, from a great many sources, both official and unofficial. Many such sources have been drawn upon for what follows. The further one goes back the more difficult it is, as a rule, to get reliable figures. Great Britain also has not distinguished itself in the past, in comparison with some other countries, for the laborious and accurate compilation of industrial statistics, though a great improvement has been effected in recent times.

The three great classes of artificial manures—nitrogenous, phosphatic, and potassic—will be taken in turn.—*The Tropical Agriculturist.*

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mercara,
4—5—18.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Markets.

Dear Sir,—I have been encouraged to push on with my Coffee Markets proposition by several friends who have promised their support should a practical scheme be evolved out of the suggestions I have made. I would therefore ask you to allow me a little space in the *Chronicle* to set down a few more ideas that have occurred to me, which may be worked up by some abler brain, expert in these matters, and presented in a practical and business like form,

To begin with my scheme suggested.

1. A Directorate of coffee planters, and a Secretary.
2. A business Manager with an Office and Staff.
3. Agents and Agencies throughout India.

The Official Scheme emanating from the U. P. A. S. I. enquiry commission for the reorganization of the U. P. A. S. I. as a result of the report of the Control Committee (which I whole heartedly approve) gives me what I want as far as No. 1 is concerned. An Executive Committee it is proposed should consist of the Chairman, Planting Member, and three members representing tea, coffee and rubber respectively (I would suggest, by the way, that there be two members of each representative interest appointed —one of each in reserve so as to insure that all three interests are represented at every meeting of the Executive Committee.) If this is agreed to the coffee representatives would be the very ones to form my "Directorate" and as for the Secretary, an additional Assistant might be attached to the Head Quarters Staff but be paid by us so as to secure his whole time services. An intelligent "Baboo" would do very well, There you have the Directorate and Secretary. No. 2. A good business manager would naturally have to be found and appointed by the Directorate under whose instructions he will work. He (the Manager) in his turn will appoint his agents who will work under his instructions.

Having got so far, viz, the appointment of the Directorate and Business Manager we will suppose they set to work, and the latter will receive his instructions from the former somewhat as follows:—"You will proceed on 'tour throughout India and visit all the principal cities and chief towns.' 'At each place you will institute enquiries as to the present consumption' 'of coffee, the price ruling, and the quality preferred, also the pos-' 'sibility of increasing consumption, and the best mean of effecting this.' 'You are authorised to negotiate with and appoint reliable agencies in each' 'place to push our coffee, establish periodical auction sales, and make' 'arrangements for warehousing quantities of coffee of various grades' 'sufficient to meet all likely requirements in the different localities you visit.' 'You will report to us all the information you have been able to gather on' 'these matters and the arrangements you have made in each place, with' 'particulars. These reports will be printed and circulated among the sup-' 'porters of the organisation.'

At the end of his tour the Manager will settle down in a place chosen as the best for conducting his future operations, and will establish on Office and Staff. Here all information gathered will be tabulated. The Manager will be kept informed of all coffee available, their grades, quality, and mark, under which they are to be sold. He will advise subscribers where these grades and quality are most likely to find the best market. All arrangements for supplying, forwarding, distributing, and selling the coffee of subscribers, rendering accounts, and receiving the proceeds will pass through his office. All the subscribers would have to do would be to instruct their curers to follow the directions of the Manager in this matter of forwarding the various coffee of their constituents,—the amount and grades he wishes sent to the different Agencies, with whom he will have previously arranged these details. I see no difficulty in all this, once the business is set going,

To prevent confusion no subscriber should have any communication directly with the various agents. All business should be done with the Manager who will be in communication with his agents who will render all account sales and remit proceeds to him, which will go through his books and be passed on by him to the various subscribers concerned.

The Directorate would really have very little to do beyond seeing that the Manager is doing his duty efficiently and in the event of any general dissatisfaction with his management it would be for them to hold an enquiry and discharge and replace him if necessary.

I think it would be necessary for the manager to go on tour annually, and visit the various Agencies and satisfy himself that they are doing their best for us, and if found necessary, to make alterations and other arrangements that he may consider would tend to greater efficiency. He should also in time, extend his tours to Burma and Mesopotamia as opportunity occurs.

The most pressing consideration now is to work out a businesslike scheme and what it would cost, and then tout for approval and support.

Would, say, Rs. 75,000 be too much, or too little to set the scheme on its legs?

Yours faithfully,
G. K. MARTIN.

8th May, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.
Bangalore.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that many subscribers to the Labour Department would like to know, what the cost of the proposed Travelling Committee will be to the present Department, inclusive of any Labour Deparment Officials salary, should one be on the Committee?

Yours faithfully,
DAWBEE.

Tea.

Copy of telegram dated the 1st May 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"211 Your number sixty one. Tea Association agree under protest to recommend their members to accept flat rate deduction of decimal one two for difference between Calcutta Sale and Shipping Charges. Please wire whether this rate will also apply to Southern India Concerns selling in Colombo. Urge that you should now finally fix 1917 contract rates and announce your requirements after May if possible fixing firm rate of payment. Am receiving many enquiries about next contract specially from Southern India where favourable rates for local sales are tempting proprietors to make forward contracts."

"Teacom" (Tea Commissioner for India.)

Memo No. 10504—19 T. C. Dated the 1st May 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

(Sd.) .....
Tea Commissioner for India.

Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.

No. 747 G/18-1.

Shipping in the West Coast.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. A. R. KNAPP, I.C.S.,
Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.

To

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Dated Ootacamund, the 8th May, 1918.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 16th ultimo, addressed to the Chief Secretary, I am directed to state that the Government have been in correspondence with the Deputy Controller of Shipping, Bombay, on the question raised in your letter but regret that the Deputy Controller finds it impossible to provide extra coasting steamers from the West Coast ports to Bombay before the monsoon.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) A. R. KNAPP,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 20.] MAY 18, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the report of the Proceedings of the Quarterly Meeting of the South Travoncore Planters' Association.

To have on record, accessible to all planters, we reproduce the first day's proceedings of the Rubber Planters' Conference held at Cochin on the 7th, 8th and 9th of this month. We should have liked to have presented a fuller report of the meeting than the *Madras Mail* could afford space for. We have broken off at the end of the first day's seance, but hope to be furnished with fuller reports of speeches made in open meeting and be in a position to reproduce Mr. McRae's valuable and interesting speech in next week's issue.

We continue to reproduce Professor James Hendrick's exhaustive article on the Growth of International Trade in Manures and Foods.

E. W. R. supplies some further information in reply to Mr. Macrae's query about Lime.

By this mail we received a letter from Mr. Brooke Mockett whose continued efforts to relieve the coffee market out here will be highly appreciated by Southern India Planters. His efforts we may justly say have been crowned with success.

A very large proportion of this issue is taken up with copies of telegrams and letters between the Indian Tea Commissioner, the Food Controller and Tea Agency Houses and Firms and Estates, and finally a copy of a Circular letter from the Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras, addressed to all Tea Estates in Southern India.

The Honorary Secretary, Bangalore Soldiers' Aid Committee, asks us to publish the following names of subscribers and thank them for their generous contribution :—

		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Mr. T. J. Gillett	... ...	15	0	0			
Miss Davenport	... ...	10	0	0			
Mr. C. Lake	... ...	5	0	0			
					30	0	0
Already acknowledged	... ...			...	548	0	0
				Total Rs...	578	0	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Travancore Planters' Association.

Report of Proceedings at the Quarterly Meeting, held at the Club, Quilon, on 4th May, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Cook (Chairman) Ross, Stewart, Gray, C. Hall, J.L. Hall, Stainsforth, Jackson, Thom, Moore, Honorary Member Mr. Lampard and Visitor Messrs. Lord and Mackie.

The notice of meeting having been read, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence was read and received.

The report of the delegate to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was read. Mr Moore stated that he had spoken on the subject of Roads and Communications in the planting Districts, particularly mentioning the need of repairs to certain roads, had asked that a width of Tyres Act be considered with a view to eliminating the present narrow tyred bandies which cut up the roads so badly and had also asked that a report be obtained by Government on the subject of registration and inspection of bandies, all of which matters had been promised consideration by the Government. The Chairman and Mr. C. Hall stated that there had been improvements made on the roads they had complained of. On the motion of Messrs. C. Hall and Ross a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Moore for having acted as delegate on behalf of the Association.

The subscription for the year 1918 was fixed at 3 annas per cultivated acre.

After some discussion Messrs. Cook, C. Hall and Moore were appointed delegates to the next Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., and the sum of Rs. 200 was voted for each delegate's expenses.

Mr. Gray brought forward the question of reviving the One Day's Pay per Month Fund which had been started in 1914 but had been allowed to lapse. Mr. Gray said some effort should be made to revive this fund to which he was sure many members would be glad to contribute and after other members had spoken it was resolved on the motion of Messrs. Hall and Stewart that the Honorary Secretary circularise members asking if those willing to subscribe one day's pay per month to a fund would hand in their names and that it be decided at the quarterly meetings to what funds such subscriptions should be sent.

The question of the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. was then brought up for discussion. The Honorary Secretary stated that copies of the correspondence had been distributed to members as directed at the last meeting, and he had just received a telegram from the Secretary to the U. P. A. S. I. Enquiry Commission asking if our Association would be prepared to meet the Commission at Quilon on the 15th instant. Mr. Waddington had also written to say that if necessary the Commission were prepared to visit Quilon and discuss the matter but did not want to waste time and money if it were possible to meet representatives at the Rubber Conference in Cochin. The discussion which followed showed that some members had not yet been advised by their principals of the course to be adopted and others were prepared to hear the Commission on the subject. It was finally decided on the motion of Messrs. Ross and C. Hall that the Enquiry Commission be met on the 15th instant at 10 o'clock by the Committee and as many members of the Association as can possibly attend.

During the discussion a point with regard to voting by proxy was brought up and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to have a register of all Estates compiled as required by Rule 13 of the Association.

Papers and application forms from the European Association were laid on the table for members.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

(Sigued) R. J. A. MOORE, *Honorary Secretary*.

THE RUBBER PLANTERS' CONFERENCE AT COCHIN.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. R. Vincent, E. Vincent, J. B. Leslie Rogers, A. H. Mead, J. A. Richardson, H. M. E. Howson, S. P. Eaton, T. H. Fitchett, H. Halliley, H. B. Kirk, C. E. Abbott, R. Harley, W. Löhr, W. Pollock, A. Hartley, A. S. Dandison, H. Waddington, while from Cochin Messrs. Jones, Pitcairn, MacBain and others were visitors.

In opening the proceedings, the Honorary Secretary welcomed the Conference, which he believed was the first of its kind in Southern India. The Mundakayam Planters' Association was particularly pleased to see the Dewan of Cochin at the Conference as well as Mr. Nicolls, the President.

Mr. Nicolls, before opening the meeting, conveyed to the Mundakayam Planters' Association, through the Honorary Secretary, his appreciation of the honour they had done him in electing him to preside. He congratulated the Honorary Secretary on the very excellent programme he had put before them.

A MYCOLOGIST FOR RUBBER.

Mr. R. D. Anstead opened the debate on this subject. He said that the matter had been under discussion for sometime. When the subject first came up he had the pleasure of going up to Mundakayam and of meeting the members of the Association, who were to be congratulated on being the first to put the question of a rubber Mycologist in the form of a definite suggestion before the rubber planters of Southern India. He did not propose to take up the time of the Conference by going into all the details, but would like to refer to one or two special points. First of all it struck him that planters generally did not altogether always realise the actual damage that was being done and the loss that was being caused every year by fungoid diseases all over the world. To his mind, the planters in Southern India were every year paying a very heavy toll in the loss caused by fungoid disease in rubber. It was almost impossible to estimate how much that loss was, but they might be assured it was very heavy at the present moment, and he saw no reason to suppose, unless special precautions were taken in the future, that the loss would be less. They had in the rubber growing districts of Southern India all the conditions which assisted fungoid disease. They had a hot damp climate, which he understood was an ideal condition for growing and propagating fungoid diseases. As they were perfectly well aware, at the present moment there were two or three diseases which gave an increasing amount of trouble. With regard to secondary leaf fall a great deal of work had still to be done, for the loss caused by that disease was far greater than any one of them at the present moment realised. The very fact that trees lost their leaves to a large extent and for a long time in the year must obviously weaken the health of the trees and decrease the yield of rubber. And worse than that was bark disease. They often saw types of bark disease which they knew very little or practically nothing about. Added to all that he saw no reason why, unless they took more precautions, they would not get more serious diseases.

Now, the only way to get out of this difficulty was to have at their doors working all the time an expert Mycologist; he meant a Mycologist who could make a special study, an expert study, of rubber, and the sooner they got such a man at work in Southern India the better. They would all

agree with him as to the necessity of having a man of that sort. The only question for them to decide was exactly what they would do and how they would do it.

The Mundakayam Association and he had put up a more or less detailed scheme. What he particularly wanted to impress upon them to-day and to talk about was the method of employing and controlling that Mycologist. In the first place, he would strongly advise them not to be economical about it. What they wanted was as good a man as they could get, and, having got him, it was all-important that they should give him every facility for doing his work at the highest possible pressure with the greatest amount of efficiency. In the next place, he felt absolutely convinced there was no good in having a man here alone, with no assistants and no staff; and he did not want to see this done in the case of the Mycologist. Their final scheme should be to provide for at least two assistants, and these assistants could quite easily and reasonably be Indians. The great reason for having assistants was that they were going to have their Mycologist with his laboratory and headquarters somewhere and they would expect him to tour about and therein came in enormous difficulty. Once the Mycologist was away from headquarters the work he was doing there would remain at a standstill. In the case of a Mycologist that would be an impossible position, for his work needed the daily attention of a man who knew something about it. If the Mycologist went away for a week or two and then came back to headquarters, his whole year's work might be wasted. Again the Mycologist might go to a particular district to look at some disease which was of particular importance; and when he got there he might find that the disease was not at the particular stage at which he ought to see it. He might have to sit there for six weeks or more, but if he had a field assistant he could tell that assistant to wire for him when the disease reached a particular stage and he could then go up.

Therefore, when they were thinking out this scheme they should see that they did not spoil the scheme for the sake of a few thousand rupees. It was worth their while in the rubber industry to go big, to go high, and get a good man and to give him every facility to do his work. As to the manner of control, he wished to point out that his experience did not lead him to think that the most efficient way of doing it was to allow the U.P.A.S.I. the control the rubber Mycologist. He was absolutely opposed to that. With all deference to the executive of the U. P. A. S. I., he would say they were not as sympathetic to the Scientific Department as they might be. He felt convinced of this, that if the rubber planters of Southern India were going to put their money in this scheme and they were going to throw that amount into the general funds of the U. P. A. S. I. and to entrust to them the control of the rubber Mycologist, then that was a scheme which would not run as efficiently as it might. This was a rubber matter and concerned rubber planters alone. He would, therefore, advise them to find the money, put the scheme up to the Madras Government and say to the Madras Government:—"We are prepared to put this money in every year for this special object, to appoint a special Mycologist and put him under the re-organised scientific department of the U. P. A. S. I., which the Government of Madras are going to run themselves. If they tried to do it the other way round and have the Mycologist under the control of the U.P.A.S.I. in its present form or in its re-organised form it was not going to be an efficient proposition. They should see to it that the money was actually spent for the purpose and that the scheme was controlled by themselves and no one else. He would like this Conference to go into the actual details of the estimate. If they started such a scheme

and got a rubber Mycologist they would be perfectly justified in asking several bodies to contribute to it. They would be justified in asking the Rubber Growers Association to contribute something towards it. From the scientific point of view he did not think they got very much at present from their subscription to the Rubber Growers Association and they would be justified if they had a cut and dry scheme in asking them for a grant proportionate to their subscription. They would be justified in going both to the Cochin and Travancore Durbars for contributions because rubber in Southern India was very largely grown in those States, and he foresaw in the near future a considerable number of rubber estates managed and run by Indians. He saw no reason why the industry should be entirely in the hands of Europeans. That being so, both the Cochin and Travancore Durbars might be asked to give them contributions towards a Mycologist, who was, after all, an insurance for the well being of the industry in Southern India. For the present, however, he would suggest that they should start on their own and if afterwards, the Native States came in as generously as they expected them to do, they could in the future reduce their cess.

Mr. Austead then gave details of the cost of the scheme, which came up to something under Rs. 40,000. A number of the items were non-recurring and they might in future years bring down the estimate to something like Rs. 25,000. There were about 45,000 acres under rubber in Southern India, which would work out the original cess to about one rupee an acre. Supposing they got a really good Mycologist, did they not think they could get the benefit of a rupee an acre out of him? It seemed absurd to think they could not. If they got in all the acreage in Southern India, they could start the scheme handsomely and in a year or two they might reduce the cess to 12 annas or 8 annas, should the Cochin and Travancore Durbars come to their help, and that would be a very small cess considering the benefits they were likely to get from it. The great points were that they should control the thing themselves and not try and make the scheme cheap and nasty, but spend an extra Rs. 3,600 or Rs. 4,000 if necessary. The rubber industry in this country was in its infancy. There was a great future before rubber and they must all realise that after the war they were going to enter a new era over the whole world in which the scientific man was going at last to come into his own. He should like Southern India to be in the forefront in the era. They could not as a fruitful remunerative and big industry afford to ignore these signs of the times. He would strongly advise them to push on with this scheme.

Mr. W. McRae, Mycologist to the Government of Madras, said that the proposal was a most wise one from the rubber planters' point of view. Undoubtedly the district in which rubber was grown was an ideal one for the growth of fungi. The diseases were getting worse. If they had a rubber Mycologist he would not only be doing research work but would be able to go round and see particular places and give planters advice. As to control, he thought that the best thing would be to have the Mycologist under the Director of Agriculture for the purposes of discipline and control, and to contribute the money they were going to get to the Government.

After considerable discussion, the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Anstead for the excellent way in which he put the case before the meeting. He seemed to have studied the subject very thoroughly.

At this stage the Conference adjourned for lunch.

Fungoid Diseases.

When the Conference re-assembled after lunch it was decided to take up the subject of fungoid diseases before moving the resolution in regard to the Mundakayam Planters' Association's scheme for a Mycologist.

Mr. W. McRae, Mycologist to the Government of Madras, then spoke about the fungus *phylopthora* that was causing so much damage to Hevea rubber in Southern India. The preventive measures against it were still not out of the experimental stage. He detailed what had been done in the way of prevention. He also referred to the class for estate writers held by him at Coimbatore at which eleven writers were given a short course of 2½ months on plant disease. The men worked up to their full capability.

Mr. S. P. Eaton said he had done the same work as in the previous year in this direction. He thought that the cost would be reduced from Rs. 20 last year to about Rs. 13 to Rs. 14 per acre this year.

Mr. A. H. Mead asked for information with regard to the brown bark disease in Southern India. He thought he had seen the disease.

Mr. McRae said that he was not sure that the disease was correctly described and that the descriptions given often gave trouble. They had something like brown bark disease in Southern India.

Mr. Vincent said that they had something resembling what had been mentioned on one estate in Mundakayam in at least 10 per cent. of the trees. With regard to the *phytophthora*, he would like to ask if it would not vitiate the results if experiments were carried on in areas planted with different aged rubber.

Mr. McRae said he thought that from the fungus point of view it would make very little difference really.

Mr. Anstead said that so far as the discussion had gone, it only showed how much they needed a Mycologist. With regard to the class for estate writers he looked upon it as one of the most important things that had been done for many years in tackling disease. In conclusion, he wished to point out what an immense amount of work and trouble this had been to Mr. McRae.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. McRae, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. J. R Vincent then moved the following resolution by the Mundakayam Planter's Association:—That this Conference of rubber growers in South India do hereby signify their approval and financial support of the Mundakayam Planters' Association scheme for a Mycologist for rubber."

Mr. A. H. Mead said that this matter was closely bound up with the matter of the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. to be discussed to-morrow. He thought that every rubber grower was under the conviction that they wanted a Mycologist for rubber. Beyond that he did not think they could go at present.

Sir Fairless Barber suggested that the resolution be taken up after the discussion of the re-organisation question to-morrow.

Mr. Vincent consented to this being done.

This concluded the business for the day.—*Madras Mail.*

SOILS AND MANURES.

The Growth of International Trade in Manures and Foods.

PROF. JAMES HENDRICK, S.Sc., F.I.C., UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

(*Continued.*)

NITROGENOUS MANURES.

When the use of concentrated nitrogenous manures began about 1840, nitrate of soda was already being imported from South America. Early trials showed its great value, and though it did not impress the popular imagination like guano, it came steadily and increasingly into use. The following table, prepared from figures kindly supplied by the Chilian Nitrate Committee, gives the average annual export from South America for five-yearly periods from the start of the industry to the present day. The official figures are given in Spanish quintals, and have been converted into tons (22 Spanish quintals equal to 1 ton).

TABLE I.

AVERAGE EXPORT FROM CHILI FOR FIVE-YEARLY PERIODS.

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1830-1834 ...	3,201	1876-1879 ...	243,069
1835-1839 ...	6,759	1880-1884 ...	332,828
1840-1844 ...	14,684	1885-1889 ...	667,145
1845-1849 ...	18,770	1890-1894 ...	929,255
1850-1854 ...	29,641	1895-1899 ...	1,206,300
1855-1859 ...	51,259	1900-1904 ...	1,340,636
1860-1864 ...	72,667	1905-1909 ...	1,821,845
1865-1869 ...	105,400	1910-1914 ...	2,344,627
1870-1874 ...	207,519	1915 ...	1,999,272
1875-1879 ...	243,069	1916 ...	2,944,909

It will be seen that there is an increase in export each five-yearly period. At first the increase is comparatively slow, and it is not till the period 1865-69 that the average export passes 100,000 tons. Then the increase is somewhat more rapid till after 1880, when once more the pace increases, and continues very rapid till the present day.

Up to 1870 the United Kingdom was the great consumer of nitrate of soda, and took far more than all other countries put together. The Chilian Nitrate Committee was formed in 1889, and it has not been found possible to obtain any complete statistics of the world's deliveries for consumption of nitrate of soda before that date. In 1873, 124,000 tons of nitrate were imported into the United Kingdom, and the total export from Chili was 284,717 tons, which was much over the average for the ten years from 1870 to 1879. In other words, at this period the United Kingdom still took about half of the total nitrate exported from South America. The great expansion in consumption which has taken place is shown in the next table, in which "deliveries for consumption" is shown at intervals of five years, from statistics supplied by the Chilean Nitrate Committee.

TABLE II.

NITRATE OF SODA.

DELIVERIES FOR CONSUMPTION.

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1889 ...	734,860 ...	1909 ...	1,922,000
1894 ...	987,550 ...	1913 ...	2,464,540
1899 ...	1,344,550 ...	1914 ...	2,181,646
1904 ...	1,429,150 ...	1915 ...	1,731,910

The greatest consumer of nitrate is now Germany, though the United States has been coming up rapidly during recent years; but probably the greatest consumer per arable acre before the war was Belgium, which little country consumed more than the whole of the United Kingdom. The following Table, III., shows the approximate consumption (import less export) of nitrate by certain countries for the years 1905 and 1913, and is derived from the statistics of the International Institute of Agriculture.

TABLE III.

NITRATE OF SODA.

Consumption in Different Countries. (Import less Export).

	1905.	1913.
	Metric tons.	Metric tons.
United Kingdom	99,311	143,187
Belgium	143,426	164,145
France	226,753	316,847
Germany	520,386	746,791
Italy	46,093	67,368
Holland	37,238	82,490
United States	326,386	635,905

The above statistics show that the United Kingdom was already consuming about 100,000 tons of nitrate in the seventies, and table III shows that this rate of consumption had not been seriously increased right up to the eve of the outbreak of the present war. On the other hand, Continental countries, and especially Belgium, France and Germany, have increased their consumption at a very rapid rate, as has also the United States.

For a long period the only serious rival of nitrate of soda as a concentrated nitrogenous manure was sulphate of ammonia. Ammonia compounds were experimented with as fertilisers early in the nineteenth century. A small supply of these salts was already being produced before 1840 from the ammoniacal liquor of gas-works, and ammoniacal liquor itself had been tried as a manure. About 1840 sulphate of ammonia had not yet established its position as the standard form in which ammoniacal salt was to be used for agriculture. Thus we find that in the Rothamsted experiments both sulphate and muriate of ammonia were used. In other early experiments carbonate of ammonia was also tried. After a time, however, it was found that the sulphate was the most cheaply and readily prepared salt of ammonia, and it has for a long period now been practically the only salt of ammonia used as manure.

For many years after 1840 the production of ammonium salts was small, and little was used for agricultural purposes. Up to 1880, or even 1890, the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia appears to have taken place mainly in Britain, in which country also most of it appears to have been consumed. Since 1880 the growth of the industry has been rapid, and Germany and the United States have become large producers, while many other countries, notably France, Belgium, and Austria-Hungary, produce considerable quantities. Table IV shows the production of the chief producing countries—the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States—for every fifth year up to 1910, and yearly after that date. Most of these figures were kindly supplied by Messrs. BRADBURY and HIRSCH, Liverpool, and by the Sulphate of Ammonia Committee, London, but some of the later figures are taken from statistics published by the International Institute of Agriculture. (N.B.—All figures quoted from the returns of the International Institute are in metric tons of 1,000 kilos. equal to 2205 lb.)

TABLE IV.

PRODUCTION OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

	United Kingdom. Tons.	Germany. Tons.	United States. Tons.
1870	40,000	—	—
1875	46,000	—	—
1880	60,000	—	—
1885	97,000	—	—
1890	134,000	—	—
1895	171,000	about 50,000	—
1900	213,000	130,000	24,600
1905	268,500	190,000	69,250
1910	367,500	3 3,000	105,140
1911	385,000	418,000	115,245
1912	388,000	492,000	149,700
1913	432,000	549,000	176,900
1914	426,000	—	166,010
1915	426,000	—	220,000
1916	438,000	—	—

It is to be remembered that all these figures are more or less accurate estimates, and that figures published by different authorities differ slightly from one another.

THE CHEMICAL WORLD for January, 1912, stated the world's production of sulphate of ammonia, as follows:—

	Tons.		Tons.
1860	2,000	1905	625,000
1900	450,000	1910	1,100,000

The International Institute of Agriculture gave the world's production for 1913 as 1,412,032 metric tons.*

Germany overtook the United Kingdom as a producer of sulphate of ammonia in 1910, and just before the war had passed us by over 100,000 tons per annum. Since the outbreak of war there is every reason to believe that the production in Germany has been very greatly increased, mainly, by

*Monthly BULLETIN OF AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE AND PLANT DISEASES, March 1915, p. 332.

the development of the HABER process for the synthetic production of ammonia from nitrogen obtained from the atmosphere. Reports which have reached this country, and which may not be very trustworthy, state that in 1916 Germany produced ammonia equivalent to nearly a million tons of sulphate of ammonia.

Before the war the United Kingdom was by far the greatest exporter of sulphate of ammonia. We exported practically three-fourths of what we produced and imported none, therefore only about one-fourth of our production was used at home for all purposes. While the principal use was as a fertiliser, this was by no means the only use of sulphate of ammonia. From 1900 to 1914 the amount of sulphate of ammonia consumed in the United Kingdom for all purposes was estimated by Messrs. BRADBURY and HIRSCH at from 65,000 to 97,000 tons per annum, while we exported to many countries, and especially during recent years to Japan, Spain, the United Straits and Java.

On the other hand, other countries, and in particular Germany, consumed most of what they produced. At one time we exported a large amount of sulphate of ammonia annually to Germany, and as late as 1905 Germany imported more than she exported, and the same was true of that intensively manured and cultivated country, Belgium. It is estimated that in 1900 Germany consumed 126,000 tons; in 1910, 350,000 tons; and in 1913, 500,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia. The United States consumed the whole of what she produced, and was also a large importer from 1910 onwards, and Java in recent years has been the greatest importer of all, importing in each of the years 1913 and 1914 over 100,000 tons, and, in addition, consuming the whole of the small supply produced at home. It is evident, then, that as in the case of nitrate of soda, so in the case of the still more concentrated nitrogenous manure sulphate of ammonia, we have been for surpassed as consumers by other countries.†

One of the most important developments in connection with nitrogenous manures during the twentieth century has been the development of the manufacture of synthetic nitrogenous manures from the nitrogen of the atmosphere. As the above statistics show, the world's consumption of concentrated nitrogenous manures is increasing at a very rapid rate. Though the known supplies in the nitrate beds of Chili are very large, still, if the consumption goes on increasing at its persent rate, they will be exhausted in a comparatively limited space of time. The estimates of the available supplies of nitrate of soda in these beds, and of the time which they will last, vary very greatly, but even the most optimistic estimates indicate that exhaustion will begin to be felt at no very remote period if the agriculture of the world is to continue to develop in the future as it has been doing during the past thirty years. No doubt the supplies of sulphate of ammonia obtained from coal, and produced synthetically, can be, and will be, greatly increased. Yet it is obvious that not only is it necessary to look ahead and consider the requirements of the future, but that there is a great opportunity for the exploitation of new nitrogenous manures, and that the possibilities for the discoverers of workable commercial processes for preparing such manures are limitless. Consequently, many minds were applied to this problem in Britain, as well as in other countries, but with this difference, that in Britain

† In 1916, war conditions caused a large increase in the consumption of sulphate of ammonia in the United Kingdom, and it is probable that in 1917 the consumption will increase still further. It is estimated by MESSRS. BRADBURY & HIRSCH that the consumption in 1916 was 178, 500 tons.

only scientific work was done upon it, and in commercial and financial circles it attracted little or no serious attention. On the other hand, in countries such as Germany and America, not only were able scientific workers engaged upon the subject, but they were encouraged and supported by capitalists who had a sufficiently wide outlook to realise the world-wide commercial possibilities of a successful process. Several processes have now been devised, and are working on a large scale. To treat of these would require a separate paper, but already before the war two processes, at any rate, had become objects for international commerce on a considerable scale. These are the Kirkeland and Eyde process for the manufacture of nitrates, and in particular nitrate of lime, and the cyanamide process. In both of these processes the atmosphere, in which there are unlimited free supplies, is used as the source of nitrogen, and cheap supplies of electric energy, generally obtained from water power, are also made use of. The cyanamide manufacture is carried out in many countries, while the nitrate of lime process is practically confined at present to Norway. Calcium Cyanamide, which is commonly known in this country as nitrolim, began to be produced in commercial quantities early in the present century in Germany and Italy. It is difficult to get accurate figures for the actual production, but Table V gives figures for 1910 and 1913, taken from statistics published by the International Institute of Agriculture.*

TABLE V.

PRODUCTION OF CALCIUM CYANAMIDE (NITROLIM).

(Metric Tons.)

	1910.	1913.
Germany	11,500	... 24,000
Austria-Hungary	—	... 7,500
France	1,000	... 7,500
Italy	3,715	... 14,980
Norway	4,280	... 22,110
Sweden	—	... 18,350
Switzerland	—	... 7,500
United States and Canada ...	—	... 48,000
Japan	—	... 7,000
Total ...	20,495	... 156,940

This table shows the rapid increase in the number of producing countries and in the amount produced. None is produced in the United Kingdom, which obtains the small amount which it consumes from Norway.

The production of synthetic nitrate of lime was, before the war, confined to Norway, and the rapid increase in production is shown in table VI.

TABLE VI.

PRODUCTION OF NITRATE OF LIME IN NORWAY.

(Metric Tons.)

Year.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Metric tons.	127	1,181	1,601	5,102	11,953	18,569	13,152	36,468	73,214

* ANNUAIRE INTERNATIONALE DE STATISQUE AGRICOLE, 1913 et 1914, p. 679.

Most of the nitrate of lime produced by Norway was, before the war, exported to Germany. Since the outbreak of war this has been a most valuable source of nitrate to that Country, which normally imported such great quantities of nitrate of soda from Chili, and has been almost entirely deprived of that valuable material for more than two years. The nitrate industry in Norway also produces nitric acid and nitrate of ammonia, both substances most valuable and necessary to Germany for munition purposes, and this new source of supply must have been of incalculable value to our enemies during the present conflict. It is also understood that, since the outbreak of war, Germany has manufactured great quantities of synthetic nitrates and nitric acid in her own country for the supply of her munition factories and her agriculture. Our great enemy is being well repaid for the earnest attention her men of science and her capitalists gave before the war to the development of synthetic processses for the manufacture of nitrogen compounds.

The International Institute of Agriculture does not give separate returns for the export and import of cyanamide and nitrate of lime, but classes all synthetic nitrogenous manures under one head in the statistics of export and import. There are few figures for import given till 1912, and the following Table (VII) shows the imports in that year and 1913 for the chief importing countries:—

TABLE VII.

IMPORTS OF SYNTHETIC NITROGENOUS MANURES.

(Metric Tons.)

	1912.	1913.
France	3,160	10,010
Germany	44,612	72,257
Russia	2.244	2,326
United States	7,248	14,891

It will be seen that Germany was by far the most important importing country. Unfortunately statistics are not available since the outbreak of war.

Norway, on the other hand, is the chief exporting country for synthetic nitrogenous manures, as she exports most of what she produces. The exports of Norway during the past few years are given in Table VIII., which shows that the industry in synthetic nitrogenous compounds is rapidly becoming a very valuable one for Norway.

TABLE VIII.

EXPORTS OF SYNTHETIC NITROGENOUS MANURES FROM NORWAY.

(Metric Tons.)

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Nitrate of lime ...	13 531	9,805	51,700	70,927	75.034
Nitrate of ammonia ...	—	3.023	4.270	9,107	11,941
Cyanamide ...	4,281	13,182	13,892	22,111	14,688

Germany and Sweden are also considerable exporters of calcium cyanamide. TRANSACTIONS OF THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND, 5th Series, Vol. xxix, 1917.—*The Tropical Agriculturist,*

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Lime.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir.—During March/April you published Correspondence on "Lime" in answer to a query of Mr. Macrae. I send you the following extract which may be of interest to him, as it bears on the subject of application of finely ground limestone. It refers to Coral Limestone.

"An increase of the fineness of division of powdered limestone, added to soil, from 20 to 40 mesh, 100 to 200 mesh to finer than 200 mesh produces a proportional increase in yield and nitrogen contents of crimson clover on several types of soil. The finer the division of the limestone the more rapid is the neutralization of the soil acidity and the greater the increase in the activity of the bacteriological processes of ammonification, nitrification and nitrogen-fixation. In the case of barley, buckwheat, and rape, fine limestone without supplementary addition of nitrogen fertilizers, gives as high a yield as coarse limestone with an application of 600. lbs of Ammonium sulphate per acre, 200 mesh limestone may be regarded as being as effective as burnt lime."

I believe I am right in saying that given one could get a reliable Firm to undertake the grinding and sifting; the cost of an application of Lime in this way would compensate one for the loss one gets when working with burnt Lime.

Yours faithfully.
E. W. R.

28, Gledhow Gardens, South Kensington, London, S. W.,
27th March, 1918.

Coffee.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—Recognising the imposibility of obtaining tonnage to bring Indian Coffee to Europe, I have for some month.. been in touch with the India Office, and with the Ministry of Food, regarding other means, for the sale of the coffee in India. The position has been improved by the impossibility of Brazil Coffee being imported to Southern Europe, owing to the danger from submarines on the long voyage.

I am now in communication with the India Office regarding the purchase by Greece of 2,000 tons of coffee in India, at once, and I hope that this business will be arranged on a favourable basis. The purchase would be probably carried out by the Government of India. In order to acquaint you with the position, I on 22nd instant cabled: "Prospect of Greece buying large quantity of coffee in India immediately, am negotiating." Mr. Kershaw of the India Office approved of this cable being sent.

The War Office also requires Indian coffee, for Salonica and Messrs. Peirce, Leslie were asked to secure a quotation for 500 tons. This they did after communicating with their House in India. The matter then passed into the control of the Ministry of Food, and I was asked to meet the chief officials, who required much information as regards price, etc., they being prepared to buy "at a fair mercantile rate" only. The interview took place yesterday and was quite satisfactory, so that I have reason to believe that the purchase of the 500 tons will now go through. As regards Tonnage Government would make its own arrangements of course. And if the Greek Government purchases it would do the same.

Should these sales be carried through the position of Indian planters would be greatly improved, and the outlook for the future would be promising, for appearances point to the Persian Gulf, Egypt and Palestine, and Southern Europe countries having to depend solely upon India for coffee while the War lasts.

Should Greece buy the Coffee in question I am requested to impress upon you the desirability of good quality only being supplied, as Greece would be a new market for Indian coffee, Brazilian having hitherto been always used.

Yours faithfully.
(Signed) BROOKE MOCKETT.

The Indian Peninsula Rubber and Tea Estates, Ltd.,
(Incorporated in England).
Coonoor, S. India, 14—5—18.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—I hope to see an early reply to "Bawbee's" letter which appeared in your paper of 11th instant and I should like to know details of the manner in which the subscribers to the Labour Department are having their interests attended to while the Deputy Director is engaged on other business, this being the most important time of the whole year for securing defaulters and hurrying advanced coolies to the Estates. The return we get from this Department is little enough for the large subscriptions we pay and I, for one, resent this little being lessened.

A. G. NICHOLSON.

Tea.

Officer of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 8598—8626 T. C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From LT.-Col. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses and Firms &c., shipping teas to the Food Controller from Calcutta and Chittagong.

Dated the 30th March, 1918.

Gentlemen,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 8130-59 T.C., dated the 25th March, 1918 in regard to the procedure for the drawal of payment for teas in excess of the 40%, I have the honour to inform you that I have just received a cable from the Food Controller to the effect that Concerns, which have already shipped and drawn in Calcutta for teas i.e. excess of the 40%, and which cannot adjust the amount drawn for here by the shipment of an equal quantity of teas to be drawn for in England, should refund to me in rupees any amount in excess of 50% of the value of the teas shipped and drawn for here, after taking into account the value of teas yet to be shipped and drawn for in England, in order to enable him to pay in London for one half the value of all teas taken in excess of the 40%. Kindly inform me what amount, if any, you will be required to refund under these orders.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India,

Copy of telegram dated the 24th April, 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"186 Your number fifty-two. Indian Tea Association agree to payment of half value excess teas of London Controlled Concerns being taken in London, and to adjust invoices drawn for here in full before receipt of your forty-three by taking payment in full in London for subsequent invoices but still object to refund rupees where adjustment by subsequent invoices not possible. Grounds same as before and they add that these teas were shipped before alteration in terms of payment made. As only London Controlled Concerns affected suggest you address London Tea Association or make cash refund in these cases condition of contract after May. But number of cash refunds likely to be few, especially as drawals for difference between flat and contract rates and for 1918 teas shipped in May will provide further opportunities for adjusting overdrafts. Your reference to one and six penny exchange not understood as increased rate does not affect these bills which were drawn at old rate."—"TEACOM" (Tea Commissioner for India).

Memo No. 11008—21 T. C., dated the 24th April, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 19899/10946 T. C.

From Lt.-Col. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates Shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 8th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the Calcutta Liners Conference have received the following instructions by cable from the Indian General Conference, London:—

"Canvas-covered tea packages must have grade-marks visible; have been obliged to strip packages ex "Newby Hall."

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo, No. 10948-60 T. C., dated the 8th May, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of Telegram dated the 9th May, 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

224 Probably certain steamers allotted for May will not clear till on or after first June. May I say that 1918 teas in steamers clearing on and

after first June will come under New Contract."—"TEACOM" (Tea Commissioner for India).

Memo No. 10969-84 T.C., dated the 9th May. 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 11002-48 T. C.

From LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping teas to the Food Controller.

Dated the 9th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir.—In modification of my circular letter No. 8598-8626 T.C., dated the 30th March. 1918, to the effect that London Controlled Concerns, which have already shipped and drawn in India for the full value of teas in excess of the 40%. and which cannot adjust the value of such teas, payable in sterling in England by the shipment of an equal quantity of tea to be drawn for full in England, should refund to me in rupees any amount in excess of 50% of the value of the excess teas drawn for in full here. I have the honour to say that the Food Controller has instructed me not to press for a refund in cash in cases where overdrafts here cannot be adjusted by subsequent shipments. Such overdrafts should, however, where possible, be adjusted when drawing payment for 1918 teas shipped during April and May 1918, and also when drawing for the difference between the temporary flat rate and the contract price, in cases where latter exceeds the former.

2. During the period recently when difficulty was experienced in negotiating Bills of Exchange for the value of teas shipped to the Food Controller, certain firms made over their documents to the Exchange Banks, who sent such documents to England, without negotiating the Bills, in anticipation of the subsequent provision of cover. These Bills have recently been negotiated, but at a higher rate of Exchange than that entered in the invoices of cost countersigned by this office with the result that the firms concerned received a smaller amount of rupees than that entered in such invoices. I enquired of the Food Controller whether I might pass invoices of cost for the difference between the sums in rupees entered in the original invoices and the amounts in rupees actually received. The Food Controller has declined to permit me to pass such bills. It is, of course, open to the firms concerned to send the bills to their Home Houses, who can approach the Food Controller on the subject.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY.
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 11049-63 T. C., dated the 9th May, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association (S.I.), in continuation of the correspondence ending with this office memo. Nos. 10008-21 T. C., dated the 24th April, 1918.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of telegram dated the 9th May, 1918 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number 68 Your 211 Northern and Southern India have now agreed all adjustments as follows deduction decimal one two of penny difference between Indian public sale of (or ?) in case of South India Ceylon public sale and F. O. B. If, any locally controlled concerns demur make no concession. Addition decimal five of penny increased cost of production. Deduction decimal seven five of penny difference between London public sale and F. O. B. also a further deduction of 140 days interest at five per cent. on price after adjustments have been made. Your 211 arrange for Southern Indian share new contract June, July, August our 65. Am posting copies of contract for London controlled concerns which can be used for locally controlled concerns. How many copies do you require."

Memo No. 11174-89 T. C., Dated the 11th May, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B.—3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 11168/69 T. C.

Memorandum

Dated the 11th May, 1918.

The undermentioned document is forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore, for information.

R. MILLER,
for Tea Commissioner for India.

Copy of letter No. 2932 dated the 7th May 1918 from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Simla, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, (with enclosures).

Copy of letter No. 2932 dated the 7th May, 1918, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Simla, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

With reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No. 1735, dated the 16th April, 1918, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India dated the 3rd May, 1918, and a copy of a letter which has been issued to Collectors of Customs on the subject of the export of tea from India to the United Kingdom on private account.

Copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Viceroy (C. & I. Department), dated London the 3rd May, 1918.

Your telegram dated 23rd March. Tea. Board of Trade State that the limit of tea allowed as passengers luggage or to be imported by officers and men of mercantile marine is 10 pounds not 20 pounds.

Copy of letter No. 2931, dated the 7th May, 1918, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Simla, to all Collectors of Customs.

In supersession of the orders contained in my letter No. 1734, dated the 16th April, 1918, I am directed to say that the Government of India have decided that export of tea from India to the United Kingdom may be allowed

(1) by officers and men of the mercantile marine, and

(2) by passengers if carried as *bona-fide* passengers' luggage

subject to a limit of 10 lbs. in each case.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 11287/11335-T. C.

From LIEUT.-Col. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 13th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the Food Controller has cabled to me as follows regarding payment for teas shipped privately on steamers clearing on and after the 1st November last, and taken over by him on arrival in England.

"Many Locally Controlled and Rupee Companies received payment "here months ago through their London Agents who held documents for "shipments prior 15th December Drafts now being presented are duplicate "payment. We are trying to arrange repayment to you in rupees in order "ot avoid possible loss in Exchange. Are such drawing now completed "Explain delay."

Seeing that I was authorised by the Food Controller to pay here for the value (excluding freight, insurance etc.) of such teas shipped by Indian Controlled Concerns, it seems to be most unsatisfactory that the London Houses should also have drawn for the value of these teas without referring to their local representatives here. In future I shall not pass any bills for teas shipped privately before 15th December last, without previously ascertaining from the Food Controller that payment has not already been made in London, and I would ask any shippers who have still bills outstanding for the value of these teas not to put in bills here until they have ascertained that their London representatives have not already received payment.

2. As regards the recovery of the double drawals, I have informed the Food Controller that if he will give me details of the double payments, I shall arrange to recover the rupees paid here, by deduction from future invoices.

3. Touching the delay in applying for payment, this was due in the case of shipments per s. s. "Ajax to the fact that neither shippers nor I were aware till the middle of March last that the Food Controller had taken over the teas carried by that steamer. Some other cases of delay have occurred, the reasons for which I do not know. It is obviously the interest of shippers to put in their bills and draw their money with as little delay as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 11326-38 T. C., dated the 13th May, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Tea No. 367/18. Custom House, Madras,
8th May, 1918.

Circular.

From

G. N. BOWER, ESQ., B.A.,
Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras.

To

ALL TEA ESTATES IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

Sirs,—I have the honour to inform you that the Tea Commissioner has authorised me to arrange for the supply of 17 lakhs pounds of tea monthly from Southern India Estates during the months of June, July and August, 1918. No information has yet been received as to the particulars of contract prices to be paid etc. Presumably the tea will be purchased F. O. B. at the port of shipment as before. For the three months in question your share based on previous allotments works out to lbs. and you will be permitted to ship this quantity provided it is graded as far as possible on the same basis as your previous shipments. Shipment samples will be drawn and forwarded to the Tea Expert for tasting as usual.

2. Please let me know whether you are prepared to offer the above quantity of tea and also inform me as early as possible what quantity of tea from each estate you will be able to supply in addition to this allotment.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,
Your most obedient servant,
G. N, BOWER,
Assistant Tea Commissioner.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., for information.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT U P. A. S. I.

Scale of Fees for analysis in the Bangalore Laboratory.

A.—SOILS.

		Rs.
1.	Complete Chemical Analysis, including the available Potash and Phosphoric Acid	...40
2.	Mechanical Analysis	...10
3.	Complete Chemical and Mechanical Analysis ...	...50
4.	Calcium carbonate and oxide content	...10

B.—FERTILISERS.

1.	Potash in Potassic Fertilisers	8
2.	Phosphoric acid, total and citrate soluble, in Phosphatic Fertilisers	8
3.	Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, and Nitrogen in Poonacs, &c.	6
4.	Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, Nitrogen, and Phosphoric acid in Bones, Fish, &c.	8
5.	Complete Analysis of Fertilisers such as Composts, Cattle manures, &c.	...20
6.	Complete Analysis of Lime, Limestones, and Slaked Lime	...10

Half the above rates will be charged to all Members of District Planters' Associations.

For methods of taking samples of Soils and Fertilisers and the quantities to send for analysis see *Planters' Chronicle* Volume X. pages 207 and 216.

All samples for analysis should be sent plainly labelled to "The Planting Expert, 25, South Parade, Bangalore," and should be accompanied by a covering letter giving full information about the sample and the analysis desired according to the above table. Fees should be remitted to "The Secretary of the United Planters' Association of South India, 25, South Parade, Bangalore."

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture contributes an article on how to deal with Illuk grass founded on an article by Mr. Wester, in the *Phillipine Agricultural Review.*

We publish the Proceedings of the Quarterly General Meeting of the Central Travancore Planters' Association.

A short communication from the Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras is published regarding Tea Packages and Grade Marks.

The Director of the Labour Department has kindly supplied us with a copy of a letter to the Adjutant S. P. M. R., 10th I. D. F., Madras which we have much pleasure in giving publicity to.

A large portion of this week's issue is taken up with a reproduction from the *Madras Mail* of the second day's proceedings of the Rubber Conference held at Coehin.

Mr. J. B. Leslie-Rogers writes on the subject of the Re-Organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and Mr. Gompertz on the late Rubber Conference.

We publish a circular letter to all Agency Houses, and Estates Shipptng tea for the Food Controller.

The following copy of telegram has just been I received from the Chairman who wishes it to be published at once :—

Telegram dated 16th May, 1918. From the Ceylon Association in London, to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo,

America finally decided restrict import all Rubber twenty-five thousand tons quarter ending 31st July fixing maximum prices. For your guidance worlds Rubber production 1918 without restriction estimated three hundred thousand tons. World's consumption estimated hundred sixty thousand tons if America restricts to hundred thousand tons. Producers here consider position critical and are consulting Government.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	70,656	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
Messrs. Barber & Pascoe	75	0	0
Total Rs. ...	70,761	0	0

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

How to deal with Illuk Grass.

In the Phillippine Agricultural Review X. 3, Mr. Wester, the Horticulturalist to the Department of Mindanao and Sulu in an article on "Rubber Culture in the Philippines" describes the methods adopted there for getting rid of *Imperata Cylindrica* which we usually call Illuk.

It may be stated that two kinds of lands are planted with Rubber in the Philippines; virgin jungle and flat land covered with Illuk. Mr. Wester points out that the Rubber planted on jungle land is liable to attacks of Root Disease caused by the fungus *Fomes lignosus* and that this fungus is absent in the Illuk land which, other things being equal, is therefore considered to be better suited to Rubber. On the jungle land it is recommended that after felling and burning, all the smaller stumps should be taken out and burned, together with the logs. The large stumps should be dynamited and removed within the first three years, otherwise such will be a source of danger as a breeding ground for fungi as long as they remain in the field. It is claimed that the ideal way is to clear the land of all stumps and roots before planting an opinion which our experience fully bears out, but it is an ideal, difficult and expensive of attainment.

While conditions in the Philippines differ a great deal from those obtaining in South India still the following recommendations for getting rid of Illuk will be of interest to planters in this country more especially as it is often on flat swampy land where it causes trouble here.

The Illuk is first of all burned and then plowed and cross plowed, the land then being sown with a thick cover of *Phaseolus lunata* which chokes out Illuk. The cover crop is plowed in to supply Humus and the Rubber is there planted, the land between the rows being kept under a cover of *Phaseolus* and the lines weeded and kept clean.

If the Illuk is so strong that it comes through the *Phaseolus* it is rolled with a heavy roller made of heavy native timber once or twice at intervals of six weeks. This rolling does not injure the *Phaseolus* but its effect upon the Illuk is said to be remarkable.

As the Rubber trees reach the age of 3 to 4 years the shade becomes so dense that *Phaseolus* can no longer be grown and cultivation is restored to to keep down what few weeds may now appear.

It is maintained that though the Rubber may grow a little more quickly if kept clean weeded from the start, yet on all except very rich soils a leguminous cover crop during the early stages is the most advantageous in the long run since no more nitrogen can be added so cheaply later by the means of green manure crops after the Rubber trees have grown up and shade the ground.

There are a number of species of *Phaseolus* grown in India though *lunatus* does not appear to be one of them. P. *Mungo*, P. *radiatus*, and P. *Acutefolius* are grown in the Punjab as economic crops and P. *Wilobus* is a common plant in South India. Moreover it is probable that *Tephrosia candida* (Boga Medeloa) would serve the same purpose.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The Quarterly General Meeting of the above Association was held at Pambanar Bungalow, on 4th May, 1918, at 10 a.m.

PRESENT.—Mr. D. McArthur (Chairman), Mr. J. S. Wilkie, Mr. S. Sinclair, Mr. W. A. J. Milner, Mr. A. H. Gerrard, Mr. J. F. Fraser, Mr. J. Stewart, Capt. Raynolds, Mr. J. W. West, Dr. McCormack, Mr. H. C. Westaway, Mr. A. C. Ross, Mr. G. P. Farley (Visitor), Mr. T. A. Kinmond (Honorary Secretary), and by proxy Mr. W. A. Asher.

1. The Secretary read the notice calling the Meeting.

2. The Minutes of last General Meeting were taken as read and the Minutes of last Committee Meeting were read and confirmed.

3. SRI MULAM AND QUILON DELEGATE'S REPORT.—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—On my way to Trivandrum, I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Travancore Combined Planters' Association at Quilon, on Saturday, the 16th February. Mr. A. J. Wright was in the Chair and Mr. J. R. Vincent represented the Mundakayam Planters' Association and Mr. Mackie, Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield, Ltd. No other representatives except myself were present. No business of any importance was done, but the meeting was an interesting one. Mr. Vincent's resolution asking Travancore Government's assistance for a Rubber Mycologist was carried unanimously. In this connection I might remark that this Association might consider the advantage of incorporation as the Mundakayam Planters' Association has found it of benefit in connection with their Mycologist scheme.

Re-organisation of U. P. A. S. I.—The meeting was unanimously in favour of of the U. P. A. S. I. Office being moved to Madras and recommended this for the considerations of the local Associations. The subject of a Planting representative on Madras Chamber of Commerce was also discussed as well as the "All in Subsn" to the U. P. A. S. I. Another point mentioned was the desirability of the S. India portion of the Indian Tea Cess being controlled by the U.P.A.S.I. and not by the Indian Tea Association as it is now. Everyone present was in favour of this proposed reform. As regards the "all in subsn," Mr. Wright and myself were rather in favour of this, unofficially of course, Mr. Vincent was not. The delegates to the Sri Mulam then discussed their subjects and agreed to support each other as far as possible. This was all the business done.

As regards the Sri Mulam, I brought up the subjects of Elephants and Roads. With reference to the first, I pointed out the great damage elephants had been doing in recent years in the District, quoting the instances given in the letters of Messrs. McArthur, Asher and Walker to our Honorary Secretary, copies of which I had. I stated that there was no doubt that elephants were increasing rapidly and some action to keep them in hand was urgently needed. My chief complaint was that, though under Section 46 of Forest Regulations of 1058 persons shooting or wounding elephants in self defence or for the protection of property are exempted from punishment, the Forest Department was in the habit of prosecuting us if we availed ourselves of this right and consequently we were deprived of our only means of combating the evil. I also asked that Government should pass orders (1) that the exemption clause should cover persons shooting or wounding elephants in reasonable proximity to their property as well as actually on it and (2) that there should in any case be an immediate enquiry on the spot by a magistrate or other responsible person, the reason for this second request being that in some recent cases the Mahazar had, I believed, been drawn up by an irresponsible

Forest peon. The Dewan took note of this point and the Conservator of Forests admitted its accuracy. In conclusion I asked Government that if they could not see their way to give us adequate protection on the lines suggested, they should make full compensation for all damage done. The Dewan replied that he would call for a full report on the subject and I sincerely trust that my representation will have the desired effect. I should like to add that the only instructions I received from the Committee were to make out as strong a case as possible on the lines of the letters I have mentioned. I was not aware of the clause in the Forest Regulations referred to until I got to Trivandrum, when it rather seemed to me that I was to ask for what we had already got as, apart from kheddah operations, I did not see what better protection we could have than the right to shoot elephants in defence of our property. It was for this reason I made the prosecutions by the Forest Department in cases of elephant shooting the chief ground of my complaint and I hope that I was right in doing so. It seems te me that our best remedy is to go on shooting elephants actually doing damage to our property and if the Forest Department do not send a responsible person to enquire into any case that occurs a full report of the matter should at once be made to the Magistrate by the individual planter concerned with reliable witnesses who have seen the damage done &c. to support him. Personally I cannot see what right the Forest Department have to prosecute, the Forest Regulation being quite clear on the subject, and I should suggest instances of prosecutions known to members being sent in to the Honorary Secretary to forward to Government. I am only sorry I had not any of these sent me in addition to the instances of damage, as with them to refer to I could have made out a much stronger case. As regards the second subject. ROADS.—I have to state that I asked for an extra annual Grant-in-aid for C. H. and Glenmary roads for oridinary maintenance and for a special grant for more culverts. I justified my request on the grounds of the very heavy rainfall in Peermade and the extra revenue furnished by our share of Export duty. Coming to the K. K. Road I pointed out that though progress with the repair of this had been satisfactory on the whole the 54th-57th miles and the 50th miles were in a really bad condition and required immediate attention if they were not to become impassable.I said that I could vouch for the state of the former section as I had motored over it much to my sorrow in the beginning of February and I was sure that the Commissioner for Devicolam who had just come through that way would bear me out. I asked that work here should be pushed on with at once and be finished before the monsoon. As regards the ghat section, miles 35-45, I mentioned the temporary nature of a good deal of this year's work and I pointed out that a great proportion of the money spent on this section and on the 53rd to 60th miles must be wasted every year by the side and cross drains not being cleaned out during the monsoon. I might add, in bringing this subject up that it would have been of great assistance to me if I had had Mr. Bastow's reply to Mr, Tait on the same subject last year to refer to. I only came across this the other day by accident on the Road Committee file. I also brought up the subject of the proposed roads connecting Peermade with the High Range which I said would open up a vast area of country to tea cultivation. In reply the Dewan stated that he noted the various points I had brought up and they would have his attention. I cannot help feeling however that the present policy is not calculated to develop the roads and communications of the district, the P. W. D. budget having been cut down enormously and I hope the Association will keep the subject of our roads continuously before Government. This, gentlemen,

concludes my report and I have only to thank you for the honour you did me in electing me as your delegate to the Sri Mulam." The Chairman proposed a vote thanks to Mr. Milner for acting as our delegate.

4. Correspondence was read.

5. CATTLE GRAZING.—The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Westaway: —

"That this Association should ask Government to allow all cattle "connected with an Estate to be grazed free as was previously the "case before the passing of the Act of 1911." Seconded by Mr. J. "F. Fraser, carried.

6. MLAPARA-THANAKUDI ROAD.—Proposed by Mr T.A. Kinmond "That this Association protests against the closing of this road and requests Government to sanction the re-opening of same immediately. Seconded by Mr. A. C Ross, carried.

7. TAPAAL.—The Chairman suggested that this Association approaches the Post-master General, Madras, with a view to the expedition of all mails from Kodaikanal Road to Peermade, Seconded by Mr. J. S. Wilkie.—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Milner that the Post-master General, Madras, be addressed asking for a Sub-Post Office to be placed at Woodlands. Seconded by Mr. J. F. Fraser.—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. T. A. Kinmond that this Association approaches the High Range and Municipal of Kodi, with a view to having the Kodaikanal Road Post Office made a Second class one. Seconded by Mr. J. W. West. —Carried.

8. ACT I OF 1903.—After discussion the Honorary Secretary was instructed to write Sir E. Fairless Barber and ask him to act on our letter of 14th February and enquire if an extradition clause can be embodied.

9. THE COOLY CHUTHRAM IN MUNDAKAYAM.—The proposed plan was submitted and accepted by the Meeting. Proposed by Mr. N. C. Westaway that the amount of Rs. 800 promised by this district be assessed on an acreage basis. Seconded by Mr. S, Sinclair.—Carried.

10. KOTTAYAM-KUMILI ROAD.—Read letters from the Chief Engineer, Trivandrum, and Executive Engineer, Kottayam and replies thereto. Mr. Milner suggested that the Sri Mulam delegate be supplied with copies of correspondence on any matters that were brought up the previous year.

11. H. H. THE MAHARAJAH'S VISIT AND THE GARDEN PARTY.—The Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Westaway for his kindness in lending his bungalow and garden for the garden party and also for the trouble he took in making, all the arrangements.

12. COLLECTION OF TEA DUTY AT CHOWKEYS.—Proposed by Mr. Wilkie "That in view of difficulties contingent on shipping tea to the United Kingdom to the Food Controller, owing to the uncertainty existing over tonnage that this Association addresses His Highness' Government asking that the collection of the Export duty may be made at the ports of shipment". Seconded by Mr. Westaway. Carried.

13. RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—Resolved that this Association is in favour of the scheme proposed by the U. P. A. S. I. and does not consider that the Re-organisaiion scheme as proposed by the Mundakayam P.A. comes under the heading of a discussion of a Rubber Growers Conference except as it effects Rubber Associations. The Reorganisation is a matter effecting every industry. The very short notice that has been given of this scheme is regrettable. Also that Mr. J. A. Richardson be appointed to represent this Association at the Rubber Growers' Conference.

14. War Funds.—Mr. Westaway told the Meeting that the sum of Rs. 1,125 was collected at the Garden party and it was decided this amount be sent to the St. Dunstan's Homes.

15. Pambanar Arrack Shop.—Proposed by Mr. Stewart that this Association points out to Government the serious drunkenness and disorderly conduct that occurs around the Pambanar Arrack shop and requests that it be removed to Arrady where it would be nearer Police supervision. Seconded by Mr. Wilkie.—Carried.

16. St. Georges Homes.—The Honorary Secretary said tha Rs. 650 had been promised for this purpose.

17. A vote of thanks was given Mr. Stewart for kindly having the Meeting at his bungalow.

The Meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) D. McARTHUR,
Chairman.
(„) T. A. KINMOND,
Honorary Secretary.

Tea 380/18.

Custom House, Madras,
17th May, 1918.

Tea.

From G. N. Bower, Esq., B.A.,
Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras.

To The Editor.
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the Calcutta Liners Conference have received the following instructions by cable from the Indian General Conference, London :—

"Canvas-covered tea packages must have grade-marks visible; have "been obliged to strip packages ex "Newby Hall."

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
G. N. Bower,
Assistant Tea Commissioner.

No.....

Camp,..... .....
21st May, 1918.

Welcome News.

To The Adjutant,
S. P. M. R., 10th Indian Defence Force, Madras.

Dear Sir,—As many of the friends of Adrian. I. James are under the impression that he was killed in France. I write to inform you that I have just heard from him. His letter is dated 28th March, 1918 :—

He was in France in July 1914, and immediately war broke out enlisted in the French Foreign Legion. With the exception of 3 months in 1915 he has been fighting in France all the time. He is now a Captain in the R. F. A. and was awarded the Military Cross in the beginning of this year.

Yours faithfully,
Aylmer Martin,
Director.

THE RUBBER PLANTERS' CONFERENCE AT COCHIN.

U. P. A. S. I. Re-organisation.

Cochin, 8th May, 1918.

The Conference re-assembled this morning, when the following were present:—Messrs. B. S. Kidd, Harley, Dr. S. G. Barker, R. D. Anstead, J. B. Leslie-Rodgers, A. H. Jones, J. E. Pitcairn, J. A. Richardson, Sir Fairless Barber, H. Waddington, H. Halliley, A. H. Mead, W. Lohr, A. S. Dandison, C. E. Abbott, S. P. Eaton, T. W. H. Fitchett, H. B. Kirk, N. D. Pollock, W. McRae, H. M. E. Howson, J. R. Vincent, Edwin Vincent, J. S. Nicolls and W. B. Hartley.

The Chairman, Mr. J. S. Nicolls, said that the subject for discussion was the Mundakayam Planters' Association scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Mundakayam Scheme.

Mr. R. Vincent then introduced the Mundakayam Planters' Association scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and, in the course of his speech, said:—

I have been delegated by the Association to place before this Conference their scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. in the hope that it will be adopted by the rubber planting community as a whole, and placed before the Annual General Meeting of the parent Association in August. Before doing so, it will, perhaps, be as well to state my Association's reasons for the proposed re-organisation, and to show that it is desirable. To do this it is first of all necessary to point out to you the enormous amount of work that has been thrown on the shoulders of our very capable Chairman, Mr. J. S. Nicolls, and our Planting Member, Sir Fairless Barber, during the last two years. There is no doubt that they have worked very hard and wholeheartedly for the planting community, and have devoted a large amount of their time to questions and work which should, and could, have been done by a capable paid Secretary. We are extremely fortunate in having two such energetic men, able and willing to sacrifice themselves and their work for the community, and, as I have elsewhere said, we owe them our very hearty thanks for what they have done, but, and it is a big "but" too, we cannot always expect to have Sir Fairless Barber and Mr. J. S. Nicolls, like the poor, always with us, and even if we could, we have no right to expect them to continue to make the sacrifices they are making. For this reason alone, then, a change must be made. This question closely touches another and that is the responsibility, to the planting community, of the executive of the U. P. A. S. I. Considering the entirely voluntary nature of the work undertaken by these gentlemen, who, you will admit, at present constitute practically the entire executive of the present Association, it would be in the nature of a gratuitous insult to call them to account for anything they may have done on our behalf. If, for instance, under the force of circumstances, the prerogative of the Councillors of the U. P. A. S. I. has been usurped by them occasionally, who are we that we should criticise? Have we, either of us, made the sacrifices, or have we done the work for

the community they have done? We have not, and we have no right to criticise. This being so, we must then admit we have no control over our own executive, except, perhaps, at the annual general meeting once a year.

The question of control, therefore, requires consideration, in any scheme of re-organisation. With this is bound up the use or uselessness of the Councillors of the U. P. A. S. I., and the question as to how the different interests, as represented by tea, coffee and rubber growers, shall be given adequate representation. The position of the Councillors under the present constitution is, I do not hesitate to say, absurd. Nominally, they control the destinies of the U. P. A. S. I. and the interests of the three industries, but actually they are mere figureheads, quietly acquiescing in facts accomplished. I am sure there is no Honorary Secretary in this room who will deny this, or who will deny that it is a question of paramount importance requiring attention in any scheme of re-organisation. The adequate representation of the different interests is, too, a grave question, and one that we cannot afford to slur over. On the contrary, we shall have to give prominence to it, and recognise that at times questions may arise in which the different interests are diametricaliy opposed one to the other, and that some means must be found of giving an opposing interest an opportunity of making itself heard. It is possible that what I have said about possbibly conflicting interests, may be misunderstood and that it be considered heretical, but the members of my Association believe that they have fully considered the question, and they adhere to the principle that, although the parent Association should link the three industries together, and should energically work for the interests of the whole community, yet each community should have complete option and freedom of action, in determining any question peculiar to itself. I trust those present will have taken my meaning, as we consider it of great importance, not only to the rubber industry, but equally to tea and coffee.

What I have said should convince everyone that the re-organisation of the United Planters' Association is not necessary merely as a prop to a certain department or a means for obtaining support for a scheme which its promoters fear may fail, but is a necessity caused by its own inherent deficiences; by a change of conditions, and by the rise of a new industry. Under the circumstances, I would deprecate. and ask you, too, to deprecate any attempt to obscure the issue by the catchwords "Unity," "Majority," etc. In other words, what I would like to say is that the re-organisation of the U. P. A. should be discussed on its own merits, and not on a basis of whether it will prove a means of providing funds for any particular purpose. The first question dealt with in the minute is one of control. It has been dealt with in detail and needs no elaboration. A point on which my Association has deliberated is whether the Planting Member should be requested to form one of the Executive Committee. We are open to conviction and shall be glad if suggestions can be made in any way tending to increase the efficiency of the control, at the same time remembering that the size of the executive should be strictly limited. The size of the present Council is one of the reasons which makes it cumbersome.

The second question is one in which the Mundakayam scheme differs from that of the Labour Department Control Committee. I think the time has come for us frankly to say that the Scientific Department is of infinitely more value to us than any other department controlled by the U. P. A. S. I. This being so, we are particularly anxious to see that funds which we wish to subscribe towards this department are not diverted to other objects and that we shall we shall get what we want. That is one aspect of the

question. The other is that we wish for freedom of action in the matter of subscriptions. We do not see why we should be bound down to a comprehensive cess in any way, or why we should have to subscribe to the cost of any particular department we may not want, or which does not interest us. The word unity has been used very wrongly in this question. We maintain that the scheme now put before you constitutes unity combined with freedom of action, but it by unity is meant the subscribing of the funds for a particular purpose which we may not require, then we do not wish for that particular brand of unity. I have seen many letters and much printers ink used in urging the necessity for a comprehensive cess, but I can honestly say I have not seen one argument or one really weighty reason given for it. If the real underlying desire for a comprehensive cess is to keep the Labour Department going, then let those who so ardently desire the Labour Department also pay for it, but please do not ask for the money for the sake of unity. Your coffee and tea grower is not going to ask the Rubber grower to pay a cess for the booming of tea and coffee, and to assist in selling those products. Neither is the Rubber grower asking the help of Coffee and Tea men to pay for his specialist Mycologist. Why not, then, let each man have the option of subscribing to whatever department he wishes to help pay for? We as an industry want a Mycologist, we are certainly not going to get him unless we pay for him, and so with a Labour Department, and advertising and selling department, or any other department that may be desired.

The third question is one brought up for the consideration of the parent Association at the last annual meeting. It is the proposal to locate the Head Offices, of the U. P. A. S. I., in Madras. My Association support it for several reasons, which are, I think, patent to all who care to think carefully on the subject. In the first place, as an industry, we should be represented on our local Chamber of Commorce—not by a nominated member, but by an official of the Association. Secondly, the question of shipping, which has been so unfortunate for all three Industries, can better be known and dealt with on the spot in Madras. Then again there is the question of finance and where the heads of the Banks can be met. Questions between the U. P. A. S. I. and the Government can be dealt with in Madras on the spot and much valuable time, now lost in official and demi-official correspondence, can be saved. It has been said that Madras is so far away from planting districts that nothing would be gained, that we should be out of touch with the U. P. A. S. I., and I have even seen a fear that mercantile interests would tend to control the U. P. A. S. I. As regards the first objection, Madras is certainly nearer some planting districts than is Bangalore. We have to remember that the U. P. A. is no longer only a Coffee Planters' Association and that it represents estates scattered over the most remote parts of the Presidency. Madras is the premier town and the chief centre and all railways lead to it. It is, therefore, the best place for us in which to locate our headquarters. With regard to our being out of touch, it takes quite as long for a letter to reach Bangalore or the Nilgiris from the Mundakayam District and some other districts as it does to Madras. With regard to mercantile interests dominating the U. P. A. S. I., I can only say that if we have not the brains to hold our own, then whether we are in Madras or elsewhere it will make no difference.

It was Mr. Richardson, I believe, who first suggested that the planting industry should make its own arrangements with regard to freights and freight rates with shipping owners or agents. That seems to me to be an

eminently sane idea which should yield good results if we have an energetic Secretary in Madras, capable under the instructions of the Executive Committee of making the necessary arrangements. Again, the question of the *Planters' Chronicle* being run by a newspaper but under the control of the Secretary would not that be facilitated too ? I do not think there is a town in the Presidency beyond Madras, where the advantages I have described can be obtained. As to the healthiness or otherwise of Madras, I am afraid I do not attach much importance. What is good enough for the Governor of Madras should be good enough for our Secretary, and when one comes to think of it, it is not every planter who manages to pick out a nice climate in which to live.

The Labour Department I have left to the last, as it is probably on this question that the Mundakayam scheme will meet with opposition from present subscribers to the Department. Whether this is because those who perhaps unfortunately subscribe to this wish to see their burden lessened by inducing a bigger acreage to subscribe to it, or whether they have experienced such benefits from it that, in their gratitude, they cannot rest content until everybody receives those benefits, I do not pretend to say, but the fact remains that since Mr. Lake's resolution in August, an apparently deliberate attempt has been made to subordinate the U. P. A. S. I., to the Labour Department. That the question of labour is an important one, and that the future of the industry to a great extent depends on our power to obtain labour, no one will attempt to deny, but to say that the Labour Department is the corner-stone of the U. P. A. S. I., as was said not long ago in the *Chronicle*, is to at once give a false value to it, and to obscure the other real objects of the parent Association. To put a correct value on it, we must look at it as an ordinary department of the U. P. A. S. I. an extremely expensive one, no doubt, and probably absolutely necessary to some districts, but surely not essential to all. Had it been so then every acre European-owned would long ere this have subscribed to it. I would deprecate, therefore, the attempt apparently being made in certain quarters to make the U. P. A. a stalking horse for the purpose of the department. For instance, I have heard it suggested that the U. P. A. S. I. Head Offices should be actually in touch with one of the labour districts. I have to say again that the U. P. A. S. I. does not exist for the benefit of the Labour, or any other department, and that the welfare of the parent Association must be our first consideration.

Another point about the Labour Department which has to be altered if it is to obtain a greater measure of success than hitherto, is its secret methods.

I beg to proprose, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that this Conference adopts the Mundakayam scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Mr. H. B. Kirk seconded the motion.

Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Richardson then spoke on the resolution, and in the course of his speech said :—

The re-organisation of the Labour Department and the U. P. A. S. I. have been before us now for some time. I bracket them both together as I think we are all agreed that both want reconstruction and in my opinion both must go together. I am quite aware that this is a point of difference

amongst some of us, but will leave it at that. In the meantime, I believe, we all more or less agree that the time has come for combined action and that is of vital importance that we have a strong and influntial Association in Southern India tc represent our interests. To have that, individual interests must be sunk, and it is in this spirit I would ask you all to enter on the discussion which is about to take place. If we have this assurance to start with I feel confident that before we leave this room we will have at least laid the foundation stone of a "United Planters' Association," which will be worthy of our industry and be of inestimable value to all its branches. That the three companies Coffee, Tea and Rubber, may have different ideas and methods of working is only to be expected, but they are only branches of one large concern—the planting industry. Their interests in many respects are identical, and it is up to them to appoint a new Manager and organisation capable of safeguarding their interests and managing their affairs, and this must be the basis of our discussion. There must be no discussion amongst the three branches of our industry, and if we keep this point before us, then, as I said before. I am very hopeful that out of the two schemes before us we can evolve something which will meet with more or less general approval. Labour troubles after the war will be world-wide, and it is folly to imagine that we will not have our share of them out here, even if they be in a modified form, and we must be prepared to meet them. Commercially and scientifically we are far behind other countries. As regards the former, the remedy is in our own hands if we have the sense to take advantage of it and combine in forming a really strong and efficient Labour Department. As regards the second, we have commercial firms ready and willing to help and advise us, and as regards the latter we have most liberal terms offered to us by the Madras Government, besidss financial help given us by the Native States, which are interested in planting to a considerable extent. That we cannot formulate a scheme which will meet the requirements of all parties, whether they be coffee, tea or rubber planting, I will never admit.

Mr. Dandison.

Mr. A, S. Dandison in the course of his speech said :—

Many planters say that this labour question does not affect them. Possibly not at present. They think themselves secure but a house built without foundations seems the same till a storm arises, and it collapses and that is what we have to guard against in re-organisation our Association—the possibility of our foundations being insecure. The labour questions is the most important one to our industry and on its settlement depends our commercial existence. This being generally admitted, ought we not to endeavour to settle this first and on this settlement build up our Associations. Many of you here to-day may not need labour now; you may not need it in the near future, but do you not need a central labour regulating authority, a powerful organisation to watch planting interests generally and guard them in the rapidly changing conditions which will first and foremost affect all employers of labour? The larger, the wealthier, and the more comprehensive our Association is, the more power will it wield, and if the Labour Department is merely an adjunct, it cannot pull the weight that it would if part and parcel of a comprehensive Association. For these reasons I think that it should be the foundation of our organisation, not merely a sort of annexe to our main building. We shall need complete unity if we are to pull through the troublous times ahead, and if we can agree to settle this much discussed labour question, by making it the foun-

dation of our new Association, we shall have eliminated the most fruitful cause of dissension, and other questions will be easier of adjustment. The location of our headquarters is a point that needs most careful consideration. Granted Madras is our Presidency town, has it advantages that compensate for the fact that it is not, and never can be, our true business centre or shipping port? Must our Head Office be in Madras to enable us to have a representative on the Chamber of Commerce? The U. P. A. S. I. has declared solidly for Cochin as our future port and market, so if the business centre argument is to prevail we must eventually select Cochin, but Cochin is not a labour centre, it is not in touch with Government, it is not suited for our Scientific Department. If we are to have our department combined for economy and co-ordination, there is no other place which so nearly fills the bill as Coimbatore, which, in addition, in near the West Coast, our natural shipping outlet.

In the proposal to place the *Chronicle* in the hands of the *Madras Mail*, I see complications ahead. We are indeed greatly indebted to that paper for what it has done for us, but while gratefully remembering this we must not forget that the *Madras Mail* is a Madras paper with Madras interests at heart, while our interests lie on the other side of India and in the development of a harbour and market, which will, if it materialises, divert a certain amount of trade from the Presidency town. It, therefore, seems to me that the *Mail* people would be placed in a rather equivocal position, having to support in the *Chronicle* our West Coast ambitions strongly enough to please us, knowing that such action would be detrimental to Madras interests. No man can serve two masters, and for these reasons I do not think the proposition sound from a planting business point of view, however much we might gain journalistically.

In conclusion, I would say that is utterly incomprehensible to me that any man who looks ahead can fail to see that the labour question is the one that everything else will hinge on, and if we are to successfully meet and overcome our difficulties, it can only be by being solidly united and using every ounce of influence we can in any way command, and how can we prepare better to meet these inevitable difficulties than by making the only department that will really count, the foundation of our Association.

A Discussion.

When the Conferenee re-assembled after lunch the Chairman said that he had decided to go on with an informal discussion of the Mundakayam scheme, which would end with Mr. Vincent's reply. He trusted that everybody who had anything to say on the scheme would speak. It was advisable to hear as many opinions as possible.

A good deal of discussion followed :—

Mr. Vincent then replied to the arguments of the various speakers. There was no doubt a striking similarity between the Mundakayam scheme and the Central Committee's scheme. The only essential difference was the all-in cess. It was quite possible, although he did not take it upon himself to speak for the members of his Association, that if they could not accept the Mundakayam proposals they could as a Conference agree to the Central Committee's scheme if they get a sufficient guarantee that the money contributed could be definitely allotted for a definite purpose.

He did not wish to give away a principle. If they could induce the other gentlemen to agree to the Mundakayam scheme, let them do so. They had gone through a great deal of trouble and spent a good deal of time in bringing the scheme up. If they could not agree upon the principle unless the Mundakayam Planters had to secede from the Associatlon, of which we did not dream the only thing was to safeguard themseives by a guarantee that they were going to get what they wanted.

The Chairman said he felt very flattered that Mr. Vincent had absolutely held out the Olive branch. He congratulated Mr. Vincent on the excellent and able manner in which he had put forward his case, and for the generous way in which he had held out the olive branch to obtain unity.

Mr. Mead at this stage put forward an amendment to Mr. Vincent's proposition regarding the Mundakayam scheme, in the terms :—" That this meeting considers that the rubber growers should abide by the Control Committee's scheme, with suitable guarantees, rather than face the disruption of the " U. P. A. S. I."

This was seconded by Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Vincent said that in the Control Committee's scheme the head office was proposed to be located at Coimbatore. The Mundakayam planters were of opinion that it should be in Madras and did not admit of any discussion on it.

The Chairman said that as a Conference they were not binding anybody to any scheme at all. Even if they carried the amendment they were not binding anybody. They were only going to say that this Conference recorded its opinion. He was glad to learn that Mr. Vincent was coming to Bangalore. They would be glad to have men of Mr. Vincent's experience and talent in Bangalore.

Mr. Mead wished it to be understood that he was supporting the Mundakayam scheme absolutely, but what he was not prepared for was a "rough house" and a break up.

Sir Fairless Barber : - Mr. Mead's amendment leaves the Mundakayam proposition open to discussion as well.

The Chairman :—It absolutely does.

Mr. Vincent said he could not bind his Association without consulting the members. In accordance with the reasonableness shown by any body of persons it was possible they might agree with him on the subject.

Eventually after some consultation, the following resolution was put from the Chair and carried unanimously :

" That this meeting do approve of the proposals put forward by the Control Committee and the Mandakayam Planters' Association and do leave the only points at variance for settlement at the U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting."

The Conference then rose for the day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

"Union ?"

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—Much fervid eloquence has been poured forth of late calling on us Southern Indian planters to set aside our personal feelings and predictions and join hands in the interests of a better understanding and solid union for our own and our industry's future well-being. But while union is preached the arts of discord are practised. The word union in fact has assumed a somewhat Bolshevik meaning, for while peace and prosperity are promised we see nothing but increasing distrust and antagonism leading to general disruption. All this has resulted from ignoring essentials, and giving too much tactless prominence to side issues; and also by what is more reprehensible, the determined but transparent manœuvering to locate the Association at all costs outside the planting zone in Madras. Of late I have had many opportunities, while on a month's absence from Ooty, of hearing the opinions, interested and disinterested, of both outsiders and planters; and I found that while there is a general willingness to try and solve the labour question in a broad minded way for the benefit of all, there is, to put it very mildly, an extremely unpleasant feeling abroad, and a growing one, about the Madras move, and especially the manner in which it is being made to force the whole situation. But enough about these two points for the present.

What I wish to draw attention to now is—the so-called "union" and better understanding that are so frequently and glibly referred to by the Madras Advocates. How, may we all pertinently ask, are these desirable qualities to be promoted and fostered in Madras? How-many planters go down to Madras during the year either for business or pleasure? I think they might be counted up on the fingers of one hand. How many of us are likely to take our families down to the Annual Meeting in the month of August? It may safely be said, none. How many of the Executive Committee, however zealous, will sacrifice their personal and business interests and agree to attend frequent meetings at all times of the year? In fact who will ever go to Madras during the summer months unless compelled to, and who and what is going to compel the planter? During the winter he cannot conveniently leave his estate. Then how and when are these instructive heart to heart unions to come off in such an attractive and salubrious place as Madras? If the majority of us do not meet, and meet freely and frequently, how are we to know each other and understand our united interests better in future?

No, one of the essential conditions the promoters of the Madras scheme have entirely ignored is the necessity of *bringing planters together* in every possible way. It is the only road to real union. The United Planters' Association, if it means anything, means that the Association should be the natural focus of all our interests, personal and social as well as business. It should attract us to it for many reasons, and be our rallying point throughout the year. We should be able without inconvenience, to drop in on it whenever the spirit moves us, and personally discuss matters with the Secretary and informally attend any Committee meeting that happened to be on. The Association should be the centre round which we can gather to exchange views, compare notes, and obtain first-hand information concerning our own and our industry's well-being in the country. Such desirable

advantages, it is obvious, are impossible of attainment in Madras. They could be only secured by locating the Association in a place to which planters and their families and the general public naturally go for rest, recreation and holidays. Therefore it must be in a favourable climate and congenial environment all the year round, that is in some easily accessable hill station.

I have hitherto strongly advocated Ootacamund for the purpose, as possessing all the necessary conditions for an independent and progressive Association; but as many object to the altitude and low temperature, why not try some other similarly suitable hill site, Coonoor for instance? Coonoor is in the middle of one of the largest planting districts, and is practically the geographical centre of the whole planting industry of Southern India. It is easily accessible to all by rail, and there is plenty of accommodation, and a popular Club to add to the amenities of the place, Planters and their families already largely visit Coonoor and the neighbouring health resorts; and we would there be close enough to the seat of Government in Ooty for continuous touch with all its officials for over six months in the year. Further, Coonoor is undoubtedly going to be the future Head Quarters of our Scientific Department; and there is no earthly reason why the Labour Department should not also be effectively controlled from there, for wherever the U. P. A. S. I. is located the actual management of labour must necessarily be left in the hands of assistants in various labour centres in the plains. If all the departments of the U. P. A. S. I. are to be under one Secretary and one Executive Committee, and if they are to be worked harmoniously without friction, delays, and irritating correspondence, they must necessarily *all be located together in one place.* This can never be done in Madras, for among many other cogent reasons the Scientific Department can never be in Madras, or in fact in the plains at all, as in the latter none of the conditions are in any way analogous to those existing on the estates for whose benefit scientific experiments have to be conducted. Lastly, we must always remember that the Secretarial. Executive, and constructive control and management of the Association's activities all require vigorous mentality. To get the best brain work, we must place the Associations employees, and I may add the Executive Committee, in the best possible conditions for the purpose. Nobody holds that the European cannot work in the plains; but who in his senses can honestly say that he does not produce, all the year round, infinitely better mental and physical work in the hills? This is not mere theory as the Government of India can prove; and I can also speak from practical knowledge and experience of Secretarial work both in the plains and hills of India, and without hesitation I can state there is no comparison between the two. In the temperate and congenial climate of the hills the mind can produce virile work with less expenditure of vitality and also in greater quantity and of far higher quality. Therefore to put it brutally we must place the Executive Committee and the Secretariat staff under conditions that will enable us to not only to expect but demand the very highest mental efficiency and also the best value for the money spent on them.

In conclusion, I contend that from whatever point of view we look at the questions of efficiency and union, no better spot can be chosen for the attainment of these ends than Coonoor. There in one place we could concentrate the whole of the activities of the planting community in independence and self-progress. The personal and social factors cannot be ignored in any scheme, for they will very materially affect the success of ths U. P. A. S. I. in bringing about that better understanding and mutual knowledge of each

other, which alone can promote and foster that unity, which is so blatantly preached and so little practised. Let us at least be genuine in our intentions regarding an up-to-date and United Association, and let us, with this object in view, away with all *camouflage*, especially that covering the road to mercantile Madras.

J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS.

Ootacamund.
19th May, 1918.

Travancore Rubber Co., Ltd.,
Aneikolam Estate.
Mundakayam P. O., S. India,
14—5—18.

The Rubber Planters' Conference.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—It was with extreme chagrin that I read in my Mail of May 11th that the Mundakayam Planters had virtually abandoned their position and their hitherto steady stand against the machinations of the supporters of the Labour Department.

Of course we must presume that the proposers of the scheme know best how far they intended to go with it, but I must say that personally I had hoped for great things from their spirited attack on the flank as it were, and I am proportionately disappointed.

It would even seem as if the Mundakayam spokesman had, in the end, deferred to those very "catchwords" *Unity* and *Majority*, which (it seems to me) he so rightly criticised in his opening speech.

If for one (I have no mandate to speak for a single soul besides,—all I ask being the support of those whom I can convince by my arguments and deductions) had sincerely hoped that the Mundakayam Association was out deliberately to challenge "a rough house and a break up," and that they would put up a (Mundakayam) speaker to follow every opponent and could *hammer* their case, which is so patently honest. They certainly don't lack talent, and further they were well enough represented to do it. But did not. What happened actually was that the Tea man indsisted on the "all-in" cess, and from the "Madras Mail's" report, they just walked away with the scheme, and Mundakayam "caved in,"

Well I dont't suppose My way will after the issue one way or the other, but I do hope you will grant me the space to put *another* side to the question.

The discussion seems to have raged principally about the Labour Department and the Tea man magnanimously explained that they would help pay for the Rubber Mycologist and they only wanted Rubber to bear its share of the Labour Department in exchange as it were.

Now in this delightful arrangement, may I ask where Coffee comes in ? Coffee doesn't want a Rubber Mycologist particularly, nor does it want to pay for a Labour Department *that crimps our labour to send it to the Tea Districts*,

Before the Labour Department opened its office in Salem (at the foot of the Shevaroy Hills) how many tea estates had a Salem connection ?

I will be more definite in my areas. How many *High Range Estates* had Salem connections ? Alongside of this, how many High Range Estate have NOW *got Salem connections* (due to the Labour Department) and how many of these coolies would have gone to the Coffee Estates on the Shevaroys if "our" Labour Director had not *enticed them away.*" Vide my challenge in the *Planters' Chronicle* dated February 9th (p. 103) which the Director of the Labour Department has seen fit to ignore.

Is the Coffee Planter then to be asked to pay for the Rubber Mycologist and the Tea Planters' Labour "Recruiter" ? and what sop is thrown to him for his generosity ?

Some genius will say (as has already been said) that the Coffee Planter too will get all the Benefits (sic !) for which he now pays at about 2/2/- to 2/4/- for considerably less—about 1/4/-—but I would like it to be borne in mind that the Labour Department is included in these so-called "*Benefits.*"

Great re-actions are now taking place—a revolution in fact in the Planting methods of business and control, and it is *now* and NOW ONLY that the Coffee Planter can make himself heard and sue for *Justice.*

The Mundakayam Scheme, as it stood, was probably as near perfect as human ingenuity could achieve. What we undoubtedly need is Unity with a marvellous amount of elasticity, for it is no use trying to disguise the fact—FACT—that tea and coffee interests are almost diametrically opposed to each other at every turn (If we want one single instance of it let us remember for an instant Mr. Newby's remarks, made in an unguarded moment, no doubt, but, there lies the sentiment, *the spark* and "trade" supplies the fuel).

Disruptive criticism is always easy. Constructive criticism proportionately hard—but having attempted to destroy, I must needs offer to rebuild.

I think I have seen somewhere (my apologies to the writer that I cannot quote chapter and verse) a suggestion to the effect that there might be 3 Associations—one for Tea, one for Coffee and one for Rubber, and that the three should be loosely combined through the Chiefs.

The Committee of this truly "United" Planters' Association would consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Industry and the Planting Member, 7 in all, and the quorum has (1) the full committee of 7, (2) this committee *without* the Planting Member (if he be absent) or (3) *ONE member* of each Industry and the P. M.—*Only these 3 combinations to form a quorum.* (2nd members representing an Industry to be classed as "visitors" with no right to vote in the event of 2 representatives of one or two industries being present without the 2 of the third).

A Paid Secretary of this United Association or Union of Associations would be centrally situated (I *personally* plump for Madras) and would deal with all the subsidiary Departments, of which he would be virtually the General Manager—the United Committee being his Directors.

Individuals (and Companies) would subscribe to their own respective Associations, and the individual should be free to subscribe to what Departments under the Secretary of the United Association as he saw fit.

Each Industry's Association should be entirely self-contained and should be empowered to form its own constitution (preferably on similar lines with the other 2 industries) and to deal with all matters affecting its own product exclusively, *notice of all important actions liable to affect other Industries to be given immediately to the General Secretary.*

I may be fairly sanguine, but I think that such a constitution would be able to settle all details that I have *not* touched on satisfactorily and *amicably.*

Perhaps I might add that I do NOT anticipate sufficient support to carry either this scheme, or something like it through, and I must admit that it is very crude, and I have jotted it all down inside of an hour (but time is short if we are to act and the case may go against us by default if we "sit tight and say nuffin!"

Personally I shall "stand out" if the Control Committee" scheme became Law.

Apologising (as usual) for the length of this letter.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
R. W. B. GOMPERTZ.

Travancore Rubber Co., Ld.,
Aneikolam Estate,
Mundakayam P. O., S. India,
14—5—18.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—I find that in the hurry of writing my letter to you about the Cochin Conference that I omitted an important sentence. Which entirely alters the sense.

Kindly therefore insert it, in the place stated below.

At the end of the sentence "*But sure genius will say (as has been said before,*" come the words:—"*The Labour Department is included in these benefits.*"

And I now want to add thereafter.

"Whereas a number—if not MOST Coffee planters—would most certainly NOT subscribe to the Labour Department in future (not to mention those who *never have* subscribed, and *never will*) and all these are now asked to pay Rs. 1-4-0 "*to include everything*" whereas they would be content to pay 4 as. *only* for their Association and the U. P. A. S. I. and would be glad to see the Labour Department ABOLISHED!"

"This then is the 'saving' Coffee Planters are asked the support, an "Economy" Costing *Re.* 1 *per acre* for a worthless, not to say *harmful* nuisance,"

The rest of the letter will stand as it now is.

I hope I have made this clear, and must apologise for the trouble caused by the omission which was due to shortness of time and consequent hurry.

Thanking you in anticipation for publishing my letter.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
R. W. B. GOMPERTZ.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 11287/11335-T. C.

From LIEUT.-Col. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea for the Food Controller.

Dated the 15th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—With reference to the arrangements for the purchase of ten million pounds of 1918 teas, for shipment during the current month on the same terms as regards payment etc. as 1917 contract teas in excess of the 40%, I have the honour to say that, since several of the steamers allotted for this month, will not clear from Indian Ports till on or after the 1st June next, I enquired of the Food Controller whether 1918 teas, on vessels clearing on or after the 1st proximo should, for purposes of payment etc, be treated as portion of the 1918 (new) contract teas. He has replied as follows :—

"1918 tea contracted for sender (under?) current contract comes under "terms of excess supplies in current contract though shipped in June."

In view of this decision, I would ask shippers, to endorse the words "1918 teas old contract" on the garden invoices of all 1918 teas tendered and accepted for delivery in this month under the old contract excess teas' terms, in order to distinguish such teas from 1918 teas shipped in June and not so tendered, which will come under the terms of the new contract. I shall open a register in my office showing the quantitity of 1918 teas tendered for delivery during this month under the old contract terms, and the quantity actually delivered against the tender.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 11516/21 T.C., dated the 15th May 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT U P. A. S. I.

Scale of Fees for analysis in the Bangalore Laboratory

A.—SOILS.

	Rs.
1. Complete Chemical Analysis, including the available Potash and Phosphoric Acid	...40
2. Mechanical Analysis	...10
3. Complete Chemical and Mechanical Analysis ...	...50
4. Calcium carbonate and oxide content	...10

B.—FERTILISERS.

1. Potash in Potassic Fertilisers	8
2. Phosphoric acid, total and citrate soluble, in Phosphatic Fertilisers	8
3. Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, and Nitrogen in Poonacs, &c.	6
4. Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, Nitrogen, and Phosphoric acid in Bones, Fish, &c.	8
5. Complete Analysis of Fertilisers such as Composts, Cattle manures, &c.	...20
6. Complete Analysis of Lime, Limestones, and Slaked Lime	...10

Half the above rates will be charged to all Members of District Planters' Associations.

For methods of taking samples of Soils and Fertilisers and the quantities to send for analysis see *Planters' Chronicle* Volume X. pages 207 and 216.

All samples for analysis should be sent plainly labelled to "The Planting Expert, 25, South Parade, Bangalore," and should be accompanied by a covering letter giving full information about the sample and the analysis desired according to the above table. Fees should be remitted to "The Secretary of the United Planters' Association of South India, 25, South Parade, Bangalore."

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 22.] JUNE 1, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, and the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association.

We also reproduce from the *Madras Mail* the report of the last day's proceedings of the Rubber Conference which have already been read with interest by all planters. Those resolutions that were passed have been circulated to the District Associations, to the Madras Government and the South India Association. Mr. Vincent's resolution on Incorporation will, we hope, receive a ready response from District Associations. We believe that Mr. Mead's excellently worded resolution on Man Power and briefly pointed speech represents the views of all planters in Southern India.

Mr Tipping, a Vice-Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., publishes the information that a Coffee Planters' Conference will be held at Mysore on 1st and 2nd July, and sends a preliminary agenda paper.

In our correspondence columns Mr. Lake refers to Mr. Gompertz's last letter; as also does Mr. Aylmer Martin.

Mr. Leslie Rogers writes on the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

We publish some letters from the Secretary, South Indian Association.

We publish for general information the latest regulations regarding traffic.

Honorary Secretaries of District Associations are reminded that original propositions to be submitted at the Annual Meeting in August, should reach the Secretary as early as possible to admit of thirty days circulation. They are also reminded that the Annual Meeting will take place in Madras, on Monday, August 19th, 1918.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	70,761	0	0
Mr. A. Ff. Martin	75	0	0
Total Rs. ...	70,836	0	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, held at Yercaud, on 17th May, 1918.

PRESENT.—Rev. Father Capelle, Messrs. E. Travers-Drapes, V. Travers-Drapes, H. Dyer, Mrs. Gaitskell, Messrs. R. A. Gilby, S. M. Hight, C. L. Hight, N. Hight, A. B. Kundaswamy, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, B. N. Short, and Chas. Dickins (Honorary Secretary and Chairman).

(1) The Notice calling the meeting was taken as read.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEEDINGS OF 5TH APRIL, 1918.—The Proceedings were confirmed with the exception of subject (4) *Rates of advance*, as advances having been already paid out, the subject was withdrawn for the present to be decided later by a Sub-Committee.

(3) SALEM DISTRICT BOARD.—Mr. H. S. Dickens was elected to represent the Association on the District Board in the place of Revd. Father Capelle resigned.

The Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Revd. Father Capelle for so kindly and ably representing the Association on the District Board for the last 5 years and that it must be borne in mind that he had given a considerable portion of his time for the purpose.—(Carried unanimously.

Revd. Father Capelle in returning thanks said he would take this opportunity of bidding all present farewell as he was leaving shortly to serve at the Front and that he hoped the good-fellowship so cordially extended to him by all members of the Association would be extended to his successor. The Chairman said he was sorry to hear of Father Capelle's sudden call to serve at the Front as he was a personal friend of his and he was sure he expressed the sentiments of those present by saying that he would be missed very much at their meetings, moreover that the "Call to Arms" by the Homeland must be obeyed and he was certain that the good father will display as much keenness in his military duties as he did in coffee planting and that if chance came his way he would win one of France's coveted decorations and he hoped it would not be long before they had the pleasure of welcoming him back again.

(4) RE.-DISTRIBUTION OF RAILWAY WAGONS FOR THE CONSIGNMENT OF MANURES.—Read letter dated 2-4-18 from Mr. V. L. Travers-Drapes re. delay in despatch of Lime. Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight, seconded by Mr. E. Travers-Drapes and carried unanimously: "That the facts and figures of the case be placed before the Agent, S.I.R. Trichinopoly with the request that he will kindly look into the matter to see if the delay complained of could not have been avoided."

(5) COMPLAINT AGAINST THE CHAIRMAN, YERCAUD UNION. With reference to the concluding sentence in his letter dated 10-4-18 addressed to the Association:—"With reference to the concluding sentence of Messrs. Gilby's and Gompertz's resolution Government Departments or administrative bodies cannot be dictated to in such a manner." From the Chair and carried unanimously. The Shevaroy Planters' Association retorts

in a similar manner to the Chairman of the Union, considers that Government Departments and administrative bodies have no more right to crimp than any one else.

(6) READ MEMORANDUM NO. 782 DATED 9TH MAY FROM THE DEPUTY TAHSILDAR, YERCAUD, ADDRESSED TO THE ASSOCIATION RE THE ISSUE OF ONE AND TWO AND A HALF RUPEE NOTES.—Proposed by Mr. V. Travers-Drapes, seconded by Mr. B. N. Short and carried unanimously:—"That owing to the peculiar circumstances controlling the District as regards individual payments to coolies weekly, the Honorary Secretary be requested to address the Collector and District Magistrate, Salem District, asking him to be so good as to arrange for the issue of 25 p.c. of small change in silver, nickel or copper in exchange for notes and supply bills.

(7) ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER.—Mr. H. Whittle of Yercaud was elected a member of the S. P. A.

(8) MANURE SHED AT KADIAMPALLY RAILWAY STATION.—Read letter dated 13—5—18 from Mr. E. Traver-Drapes on the subject. The Honorary Secretary was requested to approach members interested in the subject and to send in his report accordingly.

(Signed) CH. DICKINS,
Honorary Secretary & Chairman.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association, held at the Anamalai Club, at 10-30 a.m., on Monday, the 20th May, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. E. Scott (Chairman), C. Fraser, J. Carless, S. C. Biddell, E. W. Simcock, D. Cooper, C. K. Pittock, B. M. Behr, S. Sladden, J. H. Ireland Jones, A. C. Cotton, J. Hatton Robinson, J. A. R. Lloyd and C. R. T. Congreve (Honorary Secretary). *By Proxy.*—Mr. J. D. Brewer.

The minutes of the extraordinary general meeting held on 1st April were confirmed.

Read and confirmed the minutes of the committee meeting held on 6th May.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—The Chairman informed the meeting that the U. P. A. S. I. Enquiry Commission had been postponed for the present and that he thought many members of this Association would be glad to hear that Mr. Waddington was back in Coimbatore.

The scheme of re-organisation as proposed by the Control Committee was taken item for item.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The Association unanimously agreed with the Control Committee's proposal under this head.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.—It was agreed that this should be composed of one member from each affiliated association, but a suggestion was made that a second member should also be elected to act in case the original nominee was from any cause unable to be present at any meeting or otherwise attend to the business of the Committee.

It was further suggested that at least 4 meetings of the General Committee should be held each year and that associations sending delegates should pay their expenses.

CESSES.—Mr. Behr said he considered that the Control Committee's estimate of expenditure was too low and that the Rubber industry should pay as much as the Tea Industry. Several other members agreed to this.

The Chairman said he did not consider that the Control Committee had sufficiently demonstrated how the U. P. A. S. I. could be efficiently run on the subscription suggested and proposed the following resolution which on being seconded by Mr. Simcock was carried :—

"That this Association adhere to their resolution passed unanimously "on 5th November, 1917, suggesting Rs. 2 per acre for Tea, "Rs. 1/12 for Rubber and Rs. 1/4 for Coffee and other products "as they view with alarm any possible reduction of subscriptions "at the expense of efficiency."

LOCATION OF HEAD OFFICE.—The Association were unanimously of opinion that Coimbatore would be the most suitable place for the Head Office of the U. P. A. S. I.

PERMANENT STAFF.—Mr. Simcock said he did not consider that a wholetime Secretary could look after all the varied interests of the U. P. A. S. I. properly and that he thought a separate man at the head of the Labour Department would be absolutely necessary.

Mr. Robinson said that he would like to point out that this Association had been largely instrumental in starting the Labour Department, and that he was of opinion, after carefully watching its development for the past 4 years, that exceptional ability was required at the head of the Department; and he doubted whether one Secretary, with other important duties to perform, would be able to manage, and expand, the Labour Department in the way he felt sure we all trusted it would be developed in the future.

After considerable discussion in Committee, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Congreve and seconded by Mr. Behr, was passed :—

"That, in the opinion of this Association, the permanent staff suggested 'by the Control Committee will not be sufficient and that more "Divisional Assistants will be required, as well as a Senior "Assistant at Headquarters to devote his whole time to Labour "matters."

MEDICAL.—The Honorary Secretary read the correspondence.

The meeting were of opinion that Dr. Milton's scheme as outlined in his letter to Mr. Congreve would be too expensive and the Honorary Secretary was requested to write and inform him of this decision, at the same time thanking him for all his trouble in the matter.

Mr. Behr informed the meeting that the Doctor, with whom he had communicated at the request of the Committee, had replied stating that he was willing to take up the appointment of Medical Officer to the district if it was a permanent billet.

Mr. Robinson said that his Company had had the matter of a more efficient medical service in the district before them for some time, and that

the General Manager, in conjunction with the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber, was drawing up a scheme to this end. He was unable to say if the Doctor now suggested by Mr. Behr would meet with approval.

Mr. Fraser proposed that the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber and Mr. Pinches putting before them Mr. Behr's suggestion. This was unanimously agreed to.

SUBSCRIPTION TO A. P. A.—Mr. Robinson said he had always understood that the subscription to the Association was separate from the medical cess; the Honorary Secretary maintained that they were a consolidated subscription. The Chairman ruled that, for the current year anyhow, they should be considered as a consolidated subscription and that the matter be brought up for discussion at some future meeting.

ROADS.—Read the Executive Engineer's letter No. M 995/234 B dated 16th April, 1918, enclosing copy of communication from the Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Fraser and seconded by Mr Behr, was carried unanimously.

"That this Association agrees to the arrangements suggested in the "communication from the Secretary to Government enclosed "in the Executive Engineer's letter No. M. 995/234B, dated the "16th April, 1918, for the construction and upkeep of roads in "this district; but would point out that no reference is made to "the up-keep of bridle-paths, one of which, in the event of any "break-down of the main ghat, would be of vital importance to "the district and trust that its upkeep may be arranged for.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.—Mr. Behr said that the post had been arriving very late for the past few weeks and suggested that the Honorary Secretary be asked to draw the attention of the Superintendent of Post Offices to this fact and request that steps may be taken to ensure its arriving as early as possible each day.—Carried.

NEW TAX ON TEA.—The Honorary Secretary was asked to write to the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. agreeing to his suggestion for a small Committee to be elected to deal with this subject and to request that this Committee work in conjunction with the I. T. A. who it was understood were moving in the matter.

LOCAL LABOUR RULES.—The Honorary Secretary informed the meeting that Mr. R. Lescher had written requesting that he might be allowed to join in the working of Rule 5 and that he had replied accepting this. The meeting agreed with the Honorary Secretary's reply.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting terminated.

(Signed) J. E. SCOTT,
Chairman.

(„) C. R. T. CONGREVE,
Honorary Secretary.

THE RUBBER PLANTERS' CONFERENCE AT COCHIN.

Tapping System and Rubber Yields.

Mr. R. D. Anstead was asked to address the Conference on the above subject. He said that when this Conference was being thought out and the agenda made up he thought it would be rather interesting to have this subject by way of raising a discussion. The figures he had been trying to get from Ceylon and from the Straits Agricultural Department had not arrived as yet. This rather knocked the bottom out of his lecture. He had, however, one or two notes taken from the publications from Ceylon last year of their tapping experiments in the Government stations there for the last seven years. They were rather complicated figures, but he had summarised them as far as he could make them out. With regard to the tapping system, if these experiments proved anything at all they apparently proved this.

The greatest quantity of rubber is obtained by the more frequent tapping, though the difference between alternate and three day tapping is small. The yield per tapping in three day tapping is much greater than the yield per tapping in alternate day tapping, but nothing is gained by extending the tapping interval to a week. Three day tapping yields more rubber per unit of bark and per unit of labour than alternate day tapping. The percentage of scrap is increased as the time interval is increased.

A single cut on a third tapped daily gives per tapping a little less than half as much rubber as two cuts on a third tapped on alternate days.

Four cuts on a third, a foot apart, gave only twenty per cent. more than two cuts a foot apart and than two cuts two feet apart. With regard to the change over system all their results were turned out this year. They showed:—

One cut on a quarter changed over every three months at the time of transfer both sides being tapped together for six tappings.

	Continuous.	Change Over.
1914	1,023 ...	901
1915	1,029 ...	1,378
1916	978 ...	1,394
	3,030	3,373

The double tapping at the change is wasteful of bark and it does not produce an equivalent quantity of rubber and is unnecessary. Wound response is not such a considerable factor after the trees have been regularly tapped as it is when tapping is first begun on virgin trees.

One cut on a half alternate day changed over every three months.

	Continuous.	Change Over.
1915	1,468 ...	1,348
1916	1,489 ...	1,545
	2,957	2,893

No increase in yield is to be expected from the change over system but from Campbell's experiments the bark renewal appears to be better when the tapping is changed over, *vide* measurement of bark renewal Department of Ag. Ceylon. Bull 33 September, 1917.

The only thing they published lately on the subject was the results of the Ceylon Committee of Agricultural Experiments as to percentage of rubber in latex from daily and alternate day tapping. They showed;

The average yield per tree per annum for the three years 1914-16 from each system of tapping was the same, 3·42 lbs. but in the daily system 24 per cent. more bark was consumed apart from the extra labour insolved. (Note. Why nor 50 per cent. more bark R, D. A.) The average percentage of rubber in the later was 29·1 for daily rapping and 32 per cent. in alternate day tapping. The results of experiments conducted so far have shown no larger yields for the change over system as against the tapping out system, tapping being done on alternate days.

Personally he had made no tapping experments at all in Southern India as the difficulty of carrying out the different tapping systems was so great.

It might interest them to learn that at Peralam he had recently put down bark disease experiments which should be fairly interesting.

DR. BARKER.

Dr. Barker, of Travancore, was then asked to address the meeting and gave the results of his experiments with country vinegar for the production of acetic acid and of various other experiments he had carried on the same lines.

An informal discussion followed and both Mr. Anstead and Dr. Barker were asked a number of questions.

The Chairman wound up the debate with a sincere vote of thanks to Dr. Barker.

SHIPPING FACILITIES.

Mr. J. A. Richardson, with the special permission of the Conference, brought forward the following resolution :—

We beg to propose in view of uncertainlty which exists as to the future of rubber and in view of the difficulty many properties are having in being financed that this meeting resolves that the U. P. A. S. I. be requested to cable the Home Government through the London Association and at the same time send copies to the Government of Madras to be forwarded to the Government of India, asking for support, urging that a definite pronouncement be made with regard to the Government's requirement of rubber and suggesting that the export of rubber be controlled and that allotments of shipping space be made to each estate on the basis of current season's estimates and that rubber be treated as other priority cargo.

Further I suggest that the R. G. A.. who recently professed, keen desire to help Government by restricting rubber output, should immediately ask for a general restriction in the interest of the industry, as it is exceedingly improbable markets cah be found for this current season's unrestricted output.

In moving the resolution Mr. Richardson said :—I think it must be apparent to everyone that we are not expecting too much when we ask the Home Government to make some definite statement as regards the position of rubber. At the present moment it is practically used for war purposes only and it should be an easy matter to estimate requirements and for these requirements shipping will have to be provided.

We were asked by the R. G. A. to restrict rubber crop to 200 lbs. an acre, with the object of assisting Government, but it looks as if this restriction even if strictly adhered to would not help us much. If rubber is to be still further restricted it is much better to have it in the trees than spend money in harvesting it simply to deteriorate and rot on the coast for want of ships. At the present momen there are over 800,000 lbs. lying at Cochin and Calicut mostly last year's crops, and there is no prospect of shipping it this side of the monsoon. In mother three months stocks will have risen enormously and this fact alone seems to me reason enough that shipment should be controlled and that allotment of shipping space

be made to each estate based on their current year's estimate otherwise there is a great danger of injustice to small concerns, through not being able to command space. By doing this we will only be coming into line with other industries which are now practically all Government controlled and thereby giving effect to the principles underlying the R. G. A. suggestions, with the very distinct difference that by curtailing output we should be assisting ourselves instead of assisting Government. Obviously Government did not require the assistance proferred by the R. G. A. and in the light of after events it is apparent that they only intend to provide tonnage for rubber required for war purposes and what we want to find out immediately is the proportion South India is going to get of these requirements, so that estates can conduct their policy accordingly.

Mr. Mead seconded the resolution, which was carried.

INCORPORATION.

Mr. J. R, Vincent then moved a resolution on the subject of the incorporation of all local Asscciations. He said they were all aware of the necessity for incorporation. All that this Conference could do was to recommend to local Associations to incorporate, but the real need for incorporation was to safeguard the interests of the parent Association, the welfare of which he hoped they all had at heart. The parent Association had to guarantee to the Government the expenses for a Mycologist for rubber and for the parent Association to be able to make this guarantee it should also have some guarantee from local Associations. There was no argument against incorporation.

Mr. J. A. Richardson in seconding the motion said that the Conference might even go further and ask the U. P. A. S. I. to insist on local Associations being incorporated.

Mr. Vincent accepted this suggestion as part of the resolution. The resolution was then put to the Conference and carried in this from: That this Conference recommends the incorporation of all local Associations and would suggest to the U. P. A. S. I. to press all affiliated Associations to incorporate.

MAN-POWER.

Mr. A. H. Mead asked the permission of the Conference to say a few words about man power. There was a question that had faced every man in that room since August, 1914, as to what was his duty whether it was to fight, or to stay behind and produce rubber. It was impossible to hope that the Indian Government would ever consult non-official opinion, but he was perfectly sure what should be done. Speaking for his own assistants there was not a man in the place who wanted to be there. Some 460,000 troops had been rasied in India, and they had been told by the papers that this year the programme was 500,000. Under war conditions he believed a regiment of Indian Infantry required 12 European officers. How they were going to get them he did not know, but he was sure the planters were prepared to go as far as they could in the matter. He would move a resolution in these terms:

"That this Conference in view of the requirements of the Government of India for men, do request the Government not only to consult non-official European opinion but do further take the matter up with a view to helping the individual to decide whether his duty lies to the employer to whom he is under agreement or to the Empire for whom he longs to fight. You can take us all."

Mr. Richardson, in seconding the resolution, endorsed everything that Mr. Mead had said and went a little bit further. He would ask Government besides consulting non-official opinion to take it out of a man's hands

whether he has to go or not go. They would relieve young men from the awkward positions in which they were placed, since they were morally bound to do their duty by their employers.

The Chairman agreed with all Mr. Richardson had added to the resolution. There was one thing. They might be prepared to go and willing to go, but could not go. When the day came their children would ask:—"Did our fathers fight in this war? There would be a slur on their name for ever. He was sure that the passing of the resolution would remove that slur. The resolution was carried unanimously.

MYCOLOGIST FOR RUBBER.

Mr. J. R. Vincent then moved the following resolution:

"That this Conference of rubber growers in South India do hereby signify their approval and financial support of the Mundakayam Planters' Association scheme for a Mycologist for rubber."

This was seconded by Mr. H. B. Kirk and carried.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The Chairman made the following concluding speech:

MR. VINCENT, THE MUNDAKAYAM PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION AND GENTLEMEN.—You have included in your agenda "Chairman's closing speech." For this one reason I must apologise to the meeting that I accepted the position, as I fully recognise that there are many others present to-day more capable of summarising and addressing you on the discussions which have occurred during the three days of one of the most interesting meetings I have had the pleasure of attending. I will occupy your time and patience as little as possible. I feel certain we all admit that the discussions have been clean and open and in no way have any of those members present, who have taken part in them, tried to hide matters or take advantages which would have tended to bring about ill-feeling. I hope you will all agree with me when I say loyalty to the *alma mater* brought forward that *esprit de corps* which keeps Englishmen together.

Mr. Anstead in his address on the neeessity for a rubber mycologist and further scientific research very forcibly brought forward points which must give the rubber growers cause for serious thought—the great and in fact iucalculable loss caused by fungoid diseases. This was more than confirmed by Mr. McRae, and gentlemen, I am glad to find that we are absolutely unanimous in our determination to safeguard ourselves and the rubber industry against losses from those diseases by the appointment of a special Mycologist for rubber in support of the opinion of those present at this meeting. I will read you a letter from a former Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., and one whose opinion is considered sound by all those who know him. (Here the Chairman read the letter.)

Mr. Vincent in his speech gave considerable weight to his arguments concerning diametrically opposed interests, in favour of differential cesses. Personally I do not think that these exist, believing as I do that our commercial interests as a coherent body of Europeans in India are paramount. But assuming that there are such opposing interests I do not think that it is necessary at a Conference of this nature to emphasise such, but rather to find a way round what, at first sight, may appear insurmountable. In this connection I hope those present will not think that I wish to patronise, when I congratulate them that their common sense has made them look at the object which they aim at without making too much of the obstacles which intervene for we know that those obstacles can be overcome by joint determination, which is the outcome and the clear expression of our unity.

The U. P. A. S. I. last year, at Mr. Murphy's request, agreed to guarantee the expenditure necessary in connection with obtaining the services of a special Mycologist, as they had done some years before in connection with the special Scientific Officer for Mysore. In view of this Rubber Planters may rest assured that the guarantee they seek will be fully secured to them. A point was brought forward by Mr. Kirk that year by year rubber would require less labour. Personally I do not agree with him and am of opinion that if scientific advice is to be fully carried out the labour required on rubber estates will tend to increase. As an instance, I would put before you the cost of experiments carried out on Pullangode Estate in connection with *Phytophthora*.

Finally, gentlemen, I will try to deal with the contentious point between the schemes for re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. now put before the planting community. There is, in my opinion, and I gather that this is also the opinion of those present here to-day, judging from the unanimous acceptance of the resolution put before you yesterday, that there is only one point—the all-in cess covering all the activities of the U. P. A. S. I.; and in my own interests, and those that I have the honour to represent, I recognise the necessity of labour being one of them. I am not talking to you from the tea or coffee planter's point of view, but from that of the rubber investor. If either of the former products cease to exist, it would be no great personal loss to myself. But if rubber went out from want of scientific aid I would have to become a labourer once again. And we must look at this matter not from our personal point of view as engaged in the production of any particular product, but from the point of view of the investing public, and I think if the holdings of the investing public were analysed, we should find that coffee, tea and rubber were inextricably bound up together. Gentlemen, by passing the resolution yesterday presenting both proposals for consideration, this meeting offered the alternative of a U. P. A. S. I. with a labour branch or without a labour branch. I noticed the reception which was given to the remarks on the inadvisability of dual control. I agree with those remarks. As Chairman of the Control Committee I can assure you that Committee shares those views. That Committee decided that it was impossible to run a labour department on such lines and that any organisation for planters labour requirements must either be controlled by the U. P. A, S. I. or be entirely free from it. The resolution which we passed unanimously yesterday looks at first sight as if no progress had been made, but this is not the case. Very far from it, for it shows that the rubber planter, the trustee of the rubber investor is determined that there shall be no disruption in the U. P. A. S. I. if he can help it. That is a very important step and it is up to the trustees of coffee and tea to take the same lines.

Gentlemen, I have only a few more remarks to make, and they are complimentary. Our thanks are due to the Dewan of Cochin for his attendance, to Dr. Barker and Mr. McRae. We all owe a sincere vote of thanks to the Honorary Secretary of the Mundakayam Planters' Association and to the Mundakayam planters for having brought this matter to a head. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Edwin Vincent, the Honorary Secretary, on behalf of the Mundakayam Planters' Association, returned thanks for the great succes which had attended the Conference. He called upon the members to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Nicoll for having presided and conducted the meeting in so businesslike a manner.

This concluded the proceedings of the Conference.—*Madras Mail.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Fairlands, Sidapur,
Dated 23rd May, 1918.

Coffee Planters' Conference.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—It has been decided to hold a Coffee Planters' Conference at Mysore on 1st and 2nd July.

The meeting will be open to members of U. P. A. S. I. and affiliated Associations and all are cordially invited to attend.

I shall be glad to answer enquiries and give any information at my disposal, and will be greatly obliged if those who propose attending would send their names to me at an early date, so that accommodation can be arranged for.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY G. TIPPING,
For Coffee, Sub-Committee.

Fairland Sidapur,
Dated 23rd May 1912.

Coffee Planters' Conference.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.
Dear Sir,—
1st July.
10 A. M. to 1 P. M. and 2 P. M. to 4 P. M.

A. Coffee selling scheme and development of Coffee markets in India.
B. Coffee seed selection and improvements of type.
C. Lecture by Mr. Anstead.

General discussions, diseases, cultivation, &c.

2nd July.
RE-ORGANISATION OF U. P. A. S. I.

Suggestions for alteration or additions to this agenda are invited.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY G. TIPPING,
For Coffee Sub-Committee.

Saklaspur, P. O. May 28th, 1918.

The Rubber Planters' Conference.

THE EDITOR.
The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear. Sir,—It is well that Mr. Gompertz assures us in his letter in last week's P.C. that he has no mandate to speak for a single soul besides himself so that one may know exactly how much importance to attach to the following statement in his letter:—"Whereas a number, if not *most* Coffee Planters, would most certainly *not* subscribe to the Labour Department in future ———and would be glad to see the Labour Department *abolished*."

Will Mr. Gompertz kindly inform us upon what he bases this assertion? The resolutions passed by the different District Coffee Associations during the past few months do not in any way support it.

That passed by the Shevaroy P. A. at its Quarterly General Meeting on February 1st last proposes an *all in* subscription of Re. 1 per acre and

further is strongly of opinion that it should have the right to be represented on the Control Committee of the Labour Department.

This, at any rate, does not look as if the Shevaroy Planters want to see it abolished or even think it a harmful nuisance. It may be, however, that Mr. Gompertz has a personal grievance against the Labour Department and all its works, but if so why try to drag in the rest of us?

What most of us, I think, wish to see is an effective re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. embracing all its activities with an all in subscription and the result of the recent Conference in Cochin encourages one to believe that this is in a fair way to being accomplished.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
C. LAKE.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. Kandy and Coonoor.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—It is a marvel to many of us, who so slavishly copy Ceylon methods, that the one institution there, that ought to give us food for reflection, has never yet been considered by our would-be reformers. I refer to the Ceylon Planters' Association, and its location in Kandy, instead of in the great and real commercial centre of the Island, Colombo. Why has discussion and consideration of this fact been hitherto avoided by us? Is it because the reasons that fixed Kandy as the Head Quarters of the C. P. A. would kill the Madras scheme?

Now it must be candidly admitted that the Ceylon planters as a whole are a sound and practical body of men, who know their own interests; that their business connections all over the world are greater than ours; that their industry is on a more extensive scale; and that the work of their Association is correspondingly more complicated and difficult than that of the U. P. A. S. I. Yet, *mirabile dictu*, these presumably sane men prefer Kandy to Colombo, and have actually no hankering for the commercial associations of the latter town! Why is it they do not place their Association in Colombo for the Banking, Shipping, and Mercantile advice, that we are so incessently told are absolutely necessary for our future existence? Why do they not make things easier for themselves by enrolling Trading Firms, and getting the latter to run the Association for them? Why, in fact, do they not cheerfully give up their independence, and placidly let others exploit them? Is it neeessary to labour the point any further? Our Madras friends might however enlighten us as to why the Ceylon planters are so purblind to their own interests, and why therefore we should, in this particular instance, not follow their suicidal example?

In this connection, perhaps the foolish words of a Ceylon man may not be out of place here. In a conversation with me he thoughtlessly said:—"You fellows are now going through what we have had long experience of, namely the attempted capture of the planting industry by the middle man. We were led into many blunders in this matter, but the outcome of it all has been the solid determination on our part to keep our Association among ourselves, and work it by planters solely for planters. That is why, if you want to know, we are in Kandy and not Colombo. Manage your own affairs and mind your own business, I say; and have no illusions or delusions about disinterested help from others, for it is all twaddle.—Verbsap."

Octacamund,
26th May, 1918.

J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS.

Labour Department.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. R. W. B. Gompertz's letter published in your issue of the 25th May, I can say that owing to the Control Committee Meeting I had to attend on the High Range in the middle of April, I took the opportunity of going through the Labour Registers maintained on every Estate in that District comparing them with that maintained by the Labour Department. The Estates in that District NOW have no Salem connections which they had not got long before the Labour Department was started, and those are very remarkably few. As regards the statement that I have enticed coolies away from Salem who would otherwise have gone to the Shevaroys, I take the charitable view that it is based, like so much of Mr. Gompertz's writing, on ignorance.

Yours faithfully,
AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

Camp. Mysore, 28—5—18.

South Indian Association.

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3,
London, 3rd April, 1918.

Fletcher Norton, Esq.,
Secretary. &c.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge your letter of 6th February addressed to Mr. Knight, and confirm mine of 18th February.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF TEA.—At a meeting of the Committee held on 25th ultimo, the question of agreeing to certain definite figures was considered at length, and it was decided to telegraph you as follows :—

"Tea Tender Food Controller agreeable to settle point seventy five and point twelve definitely provided we agree in respect of crop to 31st May to halfpenny per pound increased cost. Committee recommending London interests accept. Hope locally controlled interests will acquiesce and there by save endless investigation and delays in settling accounts.

I enclose copy of a circular which has been recently issued to members on this side, with the Committee's recommendations, which, it is hoped, will meet with general acceptance by concerns controlled in India. So much trouble and labour would be caused by each concern substantiating their calculations that it was felt it would be a great advantage to accept the figures for adjustment, and the Ministry were willing to agree to this provided ½*d.* was accepted as the rate for increased cost of production.

In the meantime, the Contract is in the hands of the printers and is expected shortly.

It will be a great advantage if you are ably to reply by wire that members on your side support the proposal.

The Indian Tea Association have agreed to these figures for Northern India, and have cabled the Calcutta Association recommending them to fall into line.

Nothing so for has been done regarding a new Contract after 31st May next, but this will probably be brought forward before long.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

South-Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3, London, 2nd April, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

At a meeting of the Committee held on 25th instant I was instructed to inform all members that the Ministry of Food having intimated that they were agreeable to settle '75 of a penny per lb. on tea sold in London and '12 of a penny per lb. for Tea sold in India provided it was agreed in respect of Tea made to 31st May 1918, that a half-penny per lb. be accepted as the figure to be taken for the increased cost.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend this proposal be accepted for all London interests, and a telegram was drawn up to this effect to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, with the hope that their members would acquiesce in regard to all locally controlled interests.

The Committee in making this recommendation, wish to explain that if the question of a half-penny or three-farthings be left undecided, it would entail great delay and an enormous amount of work in calculation which would prevent accounts being finally closed possibly for two years or so, and in these circumstances they felt that it would be an advantage to agree to a figure which gave reasonable results bearing in mind that the deduction if taken at '75 and '12 are favourable to Tea interests and would largely compensate for any possible deficiency in accepting a halfpenny per lb.

It should be pointed out that .75 and .12 are only accepted by the Ministry provided the Tea Industry agrees to the halfpenny per lb.

A. F. BRUCE.

Copy of telegram above referred to —

"Tea Tender Food Controller agreeable to settle '75 and 12. definitely provided we agree in respect of crop to 31st May to half penny per pound increased cost. Committee recommending London interests accept. Hope locally controlled interests will acquiesce and thereby save endless investigation and delays in settling accounts."

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, /C.3, London, 19th March, 1918

Tender for Tea—Southern India.

Dear Sir,—*General Conditions of Sale.* I—A. With reference to the $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. offered by the Food Controller for increased cost of production: unless such increase in Southern India is equal to $\frac{3}{4}d.$ or more, in which case the $\frac{1}{2}d.$ shall be increased to $\frac{3}{4}d.$ *but not more.* I shall be glad if you will let me know at once if your teas have cost to produce $\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb. more than in the years 1911, 1912 and 1913, owing to the war, and if so please send the necessary figures shewing that you are in a position to substantiate the claim.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3,
London, 8th April, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ., etc.

Dear Sir,—Your cablegram of 20th March addressed to Mr. Owen reading:—

"Represent Shipping Ministry hardship imposed on Southern India Rubber Estate by restricted shipment. Owing to climatic causes thirty five

per cent. of crop is procured in October, November, December. Young companies capital exhausted. Without shipment will be unable meet bills when matured request shipment crop end December nineteen seventeen." has been handed over to the South Indian Association in London. I have passed it on to the Rubber Growers' Association, and I find that the yield of rubber crops in Ceylon in the months of October, November and December are much the same as in Southern India. I quote you a reply sent by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a private letter of a member of the Rubber Growers' Association, which is in reply to a similar request from them:—

"The state of affairs to which you refer is, I fear, only another manifestation of the fact that in many places production greatly exceeds the means of transportation. It is fully recognised that the lack of tonnage has serious financial effects on some of the companies, but regrettable as this is—and no one feels it more strongly than I do—subject to the necessity of importing into the United Kingdom sufficient rubber to meet our requirements, no ships ought to be used in the present circumstances except in essential trades."

I do not think it is any good approaching the Ministry of Shipping in the meantime, but your interests shall be watched and guarded.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) H. M. KNIGHT,
Chairman.

P. S.—Copy of the Contract just received from the Ministry of Food is enclosed for your information.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 11219-55 T. C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From Lieut.-Col. W. M, Kennedy, C. I. E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 15th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the Food Controller has advised that the following adjustments in the contract prices of 1917 teas, have been finally agreed to by him and by the representatives of the Northern and Southern India tea growers, and the contract prices of teas of Indian Controlled Concerns will be revised accordingly:—

(1) An addition of '5 of a penny to cover increased cost of production since 1911, 1912 and 1913.

(2) In the case of tea sold in the Calcutta or Colombo market, a flat rate deduction of '12 of a penny (instead of '08). to adjust the difference between sale charges and F. O. B. charges at Indian Ports.

(3) In the case of tea sold in the London market, a deduction of '75 of a penny (instead of '90), te adjust the difference between London public sale charges and F. O. B. charges at Indian Ports, and also a further deduction, on this account, of interest at 5% for 140 days, to be calculated on the price arrived at after deductions have been made.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir.
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 11399/437 T.C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.
From LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 14th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 11219-55 T. C., dated the 13th instant, I have the honour to say that the last five words of para (3) of that letter should read "after adjustments have been made."

2. Since there is some doubt as to whether in calculating the net average price of London sale teas, the interest should be calculated on the average price after deducting .75 of a penny and before adding .5 of a penny, or whether latter should be added before calculating the interest which has to be deducted, I have referred this point for the instructions of the Food Controller. In the meantime the revision of the contract rates may stand over.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlmen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY.
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 11930/71-T. C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.
From LIEUT.-Col. W M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea for the Food Controller.

Dated the 23rd May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my circlar letter No. 11399/437 T.C., dated the 14th instant on the subject of the adjustments to be made in the contract price of teas supplied to the Food Controller under the existing contract, I have the honour to say that the Food Controller has advised me that, in case of London Sale teas the interest for 140 days at 5 per cent, which is to be deducted, should be calculated on the average sale price realised during the years 1911, 1912 and 1913, after deducting '75 of a penny and adding '50 of a penny, I attach, for ready reference, a specimen tender form with the rates worked out.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 11973/80 T.C., dated the 22nd May, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

SPECIMEN TENDER FORM WITH RATES WORKED OUT.

Total crop sold :—	1911.	1912.	1913.	Grand Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
(*a*) Calcutta ...	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
(*b*) London ...	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000

Gross sale-proceeds—		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(*a*) Calcutta	...	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
(*b*) London	...	£. 200	£. 200	£. 200	£ 600
Average for 3 years 1911-13.		...	...	6'40 annas.	
(Grand total of sale proceeds divided by Grand total of crop)	...		...	12'00 *d.*	
(*a*) Calcutta					
(*b*) London					
Deduct—					
(*a*) For London sales		...12'00	average London price for 1911-13.		
'76 of a penny		... '76			
(a) For London sales		12'00	average London price for 1911-13.		
75 of a penny		—'75			
		11'25			
for intermediate charges		÷ '50	for increased cost of production.		
		11'75			
		— '23	deduct interest on 11'75 annas for 140 days at the rate of Rs. 5/- per cent. per annum.		
London contract price		=11'52			
		6'40	average Calcutta price for 1911-13		
		— '12	difference between sale and shipping charges.		
		6'28			
		+ '50	increased cost of production.		
Calcutta contract prices		— 6'78			

—the net price to be claimed under contract is :—

$$\frac{12000 \times 11'52 \div 15000 \times 6'78}{15000 + 12000} = \frac{138240 + 101700}{27000} = \frac{239940}{27000} = 8'88$$

i, e., the total sale proceeds divided by the total quantity sold.

	s.	d.
convert sterling into rupees at ...	1	4

Latest Railway Regulations.

The folllowing regulations regarding traffic are published for general information.

From June 1st all traffic on railways will be divided into the following classes :—

I. Urgent (a) Military
(b) Civil

II. Preferential (a) Military
(b) Civil

III, Ordinary traffic.

Coal traffic and the Karachi wheat traffic are excluded from the above classes and will continue to be dealt with as at present.

Blue certificates will be issued for urgent traffic and red certificates for preferential traffic. Authorised officers dealing in military stores will issue the certificates for military goods; and the Director of Civil Supplies in each

Province will issue certtficates for civil goods. Blue certificates will only be issued for really urgent traffic and red certificates will be issued for necessary but not urgent traffic. A great deal of existing traffic is not *necessary* traffic, and in such cases no certificates will be issued; and the goods must take their turn in getting wagons in the order in which the owners register their requests with the Station Masters or the District Traffic Superintendents, after all the blue and red certificates are satisfied.

All applications for civil certificates must be sent to the Director of Civil Supplies, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, Madras and must contain the name and address of consignor, consignee, weight or number of bags of goods, descriptions of goods, station from which and to which the goods are to be despatched. and in the case of foreign provinces. the name of the Railway on which the station is situated. Applications not containing these particulars will either be disregarded or rsturned for further information.

The Director of Civil Supplies will foward the certificates issued by him to the General Tarffic Manager or the District Traffic Superintendent concerned, and will notify the applicant of the grant of the certificate. As soon as the consignor gets notices from the Station Master of the wagon's being available, he must bring his goods to the Railway station and load up failing which the certificate will be returned to the Directer to be destroyed. Applicants who apply for wagons without having goods or who sell or attempt to sell wagons allotted to them to other people, will be prosecuted, and no such transfer will be recognsied. Nor will any application from such a man.

It will be open to Collectors to organize Municipal or District Committees for the purpose of considering local *necessities*, whether exports or imports, distinguishing true from excessive or fraudulent demands, and so on. The principles on whch such committees can be worked successfully will have to be learnt by experience.

No facilities will be given for unnecessary cross traffic: e.g., for rice from Madras to Masulipatam, or from Malabar to Coimbatore or from Nellore te Tanjore, or, from Bombay to Bangalore: nor for wasteful traffic, *e. g.*, Kuppas anc unpressed cotton: nor for goods travelling less than fifty miles. And when there in any special urgent civil demand, as for rice from East coast to Cochin or to Bombay, the Director may refuse to give any certificates for any other sort of traffic.

As a rule. blue certificates will be reserved (1) for food grains urgently required on account of local shortage, (2) for commodities urgently required to keep factories or industries running if engaged on work of national or military importance (Tanning bark and raw hides come under this category), and (3) for commodities which have to be moved urgently to ports in response to orders from Governmenf departments in London.

Red certificates will usually be given for the above goods when not urgent, and also for *necessary* movements of grains, oil seeds and oil, condiments and spices, yarn and cloth goods.

But the issue of certificates is always limited by the number of wagons available, and by the demands made upon the Railway for military purposes. Every endeavour will be made to satisfy the most urgent demands of the public, but the Director of Civil Supplies wishes to remind everyone that rolling stock is *not* available for a great proportion of customary traffic, and the people should therefore curtail their demands as much as possible and they should especially obtain their goods from the nearest places where they are available.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

From the Scientific Department we have received an article containing notes on the manuring of Apples, Lime, Coffee in Brazil, the Indian Trade Commissioner and the Root Diseases of Tea.

We publish the interesting address of Mr. W. McRae, Government Mycologist at the Rubber Planters' Conference at Cochin.

With the kind permission of the Indian Tea Association we publish their letter of remonstrance to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, against the Income tax imposed upon the Tea Industry.

We have much pleasure in reproducing extracts from the letters of a son of an old Kotagiri planter not written for publication, but for private eyes. It immediately seizes and holds the attention of the reader. Such a production is above all art. Its very simplicity and enthusiasm pleases, and we must remember that probably thousands of such letters are being daily written from the front.

We congratulate Mr. Mead on being elected to the Madras Chamber of Commerce as the first representative of the U. P. A. S. I. *sic itur ad astra.*

We publish some more letters between the Indian Tea Cess Committee and Sir Fairless Barber.

"Coffee" writes on the re-organisation of the U. P, A. concluding with an appeal to Mr. Martin.

The remainder of the issue is taken up with letters from the Tea Commissioner for India.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	70,836	0	0
Mr. G. W. Cole (Tennis Winnings)	21	0	0
Mr. R. T. Landale (Gymkhana Winnings) ...	14	0	0
Mr. Campbell Hunt	30	0	0
Mr. A. J. Wright	20	0	0
Mr. Stephen Bayly	10	0	0
Total Rs. ...	70,931	0	0

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

The Manuring of Apples.

The 16th Report of the Woburn Experimental Fruit Farm by the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Pickering, gives the results of manuring Apple trees for a period of twenty years. The trials were conducted on two orchards. At Ridgemount no benefit has been obtained from the constant use of manure, but at Millbrook where the soil is lighter and less rich in available Potash some very decided benefits have been obtained.

Taking the results of no manure, the control, as 100 a single dressing of artificial manure including nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, gave 141, a double dressing 125, and a treble dressing 163 in weight of prunings which represents growth of new wood. The corresponding figures for weight of fruit were 141, 142, 168, and those for size of fruit were 132, 142, 163.

With dung the results are still more marked. Still letting 100 represent the result of no manure the figures relating to the weight of prunings were 151 for a single dressing, 213 for a double dressing, and 277 for a treble dressing. The corresponding figures for weight of fruit were 156, 186, and 242, and those for size of fruit were 191, 272, and 251.

Planters in South India who are apt to think that a ton an acre of manure is a heavy dose should note that at Woburn a single dressing of dung is 12 tons an acre applied annually. Now good farm yard manure in England contains on the average, according to figures published in the *Kew Bulletin* in 1911,0.59 per cent of nitrogen ,0.48 per cent. of potash and 0'44 per cent of phosphoric acid, so that an application of 12 tons per acre adds to the soil 158'6 pounds of nitrogen, 129 pounds of potash and 118 pounds of phosphoric acid. If this amount of plant food were applied as artificial manure as we should apply it in India on an estate, good dung being scarce, it would represent in terms of an apple fertiliser a mixture of 340 pounds of high grade superphosphate (30%), 260 lbs. of sulphate of potash and 770 lbs of Nitrolim per acre an application of about 12 cwts per acre, annually instead of the 4÷6 cwts with which the planters is usually content. In return for this, in addition to the benefit to the health of the trees the crop is increased by 50 per cent in weight and the fruit improved by 90 per cent which of course adds to its selling price. This sort of manuring pays, at any rate in the opinion of the English farmer and with his prices for manure and for his product.

Lime again.

Lime possesses alkaline properties which neutralise or counteract soil acidity. Sour soils encourage disease in Potatoes, and wherever diseased tubers were dug last season lime should be applied to the soil this season before planting commences. Wherever farm yard manure, sulphate of ammonia, or nitrate of soda are used lime should be present beforehand in the soil, as without lime these manures cannot perform their proper functions. Lime is especially valuable in dry land, as it helps to liberate the potash present.

Lime on a clay soil not only liberates plant food but it assists drainage. It is well known as a fungicide and a remedy for the prevention of club root; therefore land intended for the cultivation of Brassicas, and especially the soil for the seed bed in which the plants are raised, should receive a light dressing of lime previous to planting or sowing. Club root often originates in the seed bed, and if not checked may be carried to other parts of the garden when transplanting the seedling Brassicas.

Lime may be applied to the soil in several forms, the most common being that of slaked lime. It should be spread evenly over the land and worked in to the top soil. (*Gardeners' Chronicle.*)

And again.

Mr. Bunting in the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Federated Malay States* (*1916-4.*) points out that the growth of one or at the most two crops of six different kinds of plants on one particular type of soil show that a decided improvement in crop production may be obtained by application of lime in quantities not sufficient entirely to neutralise the acidity of the soil. The improvement in crop production is not proportional to the reduction of soil acidity. He considers that one ton of lime per acre applied every four years will give the best return.

Coffee in Brazil.

According to *Wileman's Brazilian Review* of 12th February the situation in the coffee trade in Brazil is a serious one: exports to the principal consuming markets have declined very connsiderably. There are large stocks accumulated at the shipping points with no immediate prospect of relief. On the other hand with so many new trees coming daily into production, the output of coffee in Brazil for some years to come will be on ascending scale unless artificially checked.

The quantity of coffee exported from Brazi in 1917 was 10,605,000 bags as compared with 13,038,000 bags in 1916, 17,061,000 bags in 1915, 11,269,000 bags in 1914, and 13,267,000 bags in 1913.

Of the total export in 1917 Santos contributed 74 per cent: and Rio over 20 per cent. The percentage of exports of coffee to the United States has increased steadily: it was 37'1 per cent. in 1913 and 59'3 per cent. in 1917.

Indian Trade Commissioner.

New offices for the Indian Trade Commissioner have been opened at 60, Winchester House, Old Bread Street, London. The Commissioner represents the Government of India and his office has been established in the interests of Indian trade and for the development of Indian industry. Its functions will be analagous for India to those of the British Trade Commissioners for the United Kingdom who are resident in India. They comprise the collection, tabulation, and rendering readily accessible of economic and trade information regarding India. the tabulation of names of trades and firms with a view to developing trade relations, and, in addition to a reading and reference room, accommodation will ultimately be provided for a sample room for Indian products and manufactures.

In gross value the foreign trade of India exceeds that of any of the Dominions and was steadily increasing before the war. Although the United Kingdom has had the lion's share of the trade in imports into India, by far the greater parts of the exports from India went to other countries, both Germany and Austria taking considerable quantities in particular lines. Most of these exports are raw materials, many of which, e.g. oilseeds, hides, cotton, are of direct interest to manufacturers. It will be the duty of the Indian Trade Commissioner not only to try and find new openings for Indian articles, raw and manufactured, but also to ascertain how these goods suffer in competition with competing articles from other countries, and report thereon to India to see whether and how any defects can be remedied. Before the war there was a marked increasing tendency in many parts of India towards commercial and industrial development, and the conditions

imposed by the war have given increased force and directness to the movement. To aid such progress under the direct control of the Government of India is briefly the function of this new office.

Some years ago such an office was started, and continued for a time, but the new proposals differ radically from that attempt. The new office is for the first time directly under the control of the Government of India, and corresponds direct with India. The intention is that the officers in charge should remain on the active staff of employment in India, and be liable after a period to return to India and be replaced by others immediately in touch with the most recent developments. It is thus expected to ensure close and up-to-date touch with India, which is economically changing rapidly. For a short period at the commencement of the war such an officer was attached to the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade for a few months, and the use made of his services has encouraged the Government of India to enlarge the scope of its activities and establish a complete and independent office. The present Trade Commissioner is Mr. D. T. Chadwick who, as Director of Agriculture in the Madras Presidency, has had considerable experience of many of the raw materials produced in India, and who last year was sent on Indian trade enquiries to Russia, France, and Italy. His Assistant Mr. J. M. Wadia has business experience of industrial India. The office will work in closest co-operation with the reorganised Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence.) War conditions will retard the full organisation of the office, but the wish of the Government of India is that ultimately the information at its disposal may be complete. The efficiency and usefulness of the office will largely depend on how far it can gain the active sympathy and co-operation of merchants and manufacturers. That of several firms is already assured.

Root Diseases of Tea.

A case has recently been reported from the Anamallais in which some old *Erythrina lithosperma* (Dadap) having been cut down in the hope that the stumps would shoot out, a large number of them died and very soon the Tea around them began to die being attacked by a root disease.

Nearly all the fungi which attack the roots of tea are capable of feeding on dead organic matter and it is usually an old tree stump which is the source and starting point of the attack. Certain trees seen to be specially liable to act as centres of infection and among these *Grevilleas* (Silver bark) and *Albizzias* are notorious. Erythrina is also a host plant though in South India not commonly so I think.

The first thing to do on noticing an attack of root disease is to prevent the disease spreading. All the fungi commonly causing root disease are able to spread from root to root below ground. It is therefore advisable to isolate the infected roots by a trench. As the disease may have attacked other bushes besides those already dead it is wise to dig a second trench enclosing all the bushes adjoining the dead ones. Always throw the soil from the trenches inwards and leave the trenches open ; it is unnecessary to lime them. The dead roots should be dug right out, all the small roots as well. This is not a difficult operation if the soil is thrown through a sieve of one inch mesh. The whole of the dead wood should be burned right away. Lime should then be generously added to the soil in the pit to hasten the decay of small pieces of infected organic matter and after leaving it exposed for a few months it may be safely replanted.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

FUNGOID DISEASES OF RUBBER IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

An Address by Mr. W. MacRae, Government Mycologist, delivered at the Rubber Planters' Conference at Cochin.

I have spoken so often about the fungus Phytophthora that is causing so much damage to Hevea rubber in South India that I might hesitate to speak again did I not know that the preventive measures against it are still not out of the experimental stage and are accordingly of interest both to you and to me. Even if our interests are from slightly different points of view they have the same aim—the reduction of the damage done to trees. In the press just now I have a paper about the subject and in it you will be able to read the details. Now I shall but recapitulate a few of the main points. Mr. Petch, the Government Mycologist in Peradeniya believes that P. Faberi the fungus that causes the pod rot and stem canker of cacao is the cause of the fruit-rot, leaf-fall and bark-rot of Hevea in Ceylon while I think the species in South India is a different one and have suggested the name P. Meadii for it. At present the evidence goes to show that both claims are probably correct. Mr. Petch very kindly sent me some cacao fruits infected with pot-rod caused by P. Faberi and from this material I I got pure cultures of the fungus, and tested it and the South Indian fungus on fruits of cacao and Hevea. 10 Cacao fruits and 24 Hevea fruits for this experiment were picked on the same day and carefully washed to get rid of spores of other fungi that might be adhering to them. P. Faberi attacked all the fruits of Hevea readily and caused a fruit-rot very like what occurs on estates. It attacked both bruised and unbruised fruits but worked more slowly and there were slight differences in the method but the result—a rotten fruit—was the same. P. Meadii did also attack fruits of cacao but to a limited extent one out of four fruits inoculated became infected and rotted. I then inoculated 6 cacao fruits and one only became infected. This experiment was carried out in very moist air under the conditions most favourable for the development of the fungus. My supply of cacao fruits was limited so I could not try again in other conditions and on other parts of the plant. Still the experiment shows that the cacao Phytophthora can cause a fruit-rot of Hevea.

Cacao is not grown in the rubber districts of South India and there are no plants on estates. There may be one or two plants grown in gardens in places like Trivandrum and Calicut and there are a few in a small Government garden at Kallar at the foot of the Nilgiris, but all these places are far away from the estates. In the latter case the cacao plants are not attacked by P. Meadii. Thus it seems impossible that Hevea could be infected from cacao in South India. No other trees or plants have been observed to have a similar fruit-rot or leaf-fall. True I have comparatively few opportunities of observing trees in the jungle; still, since I made the suggestion at a planters' meeting in 1916, I have had no positive case reported. The possibility of the fungus having passed to Hevea from trees in the country. Another possibility is that the disease was introduced along with plants and seed (possibly fruits) that were imported in considerable numbers from Ceylon. It is quite possible that P. Meadii occurs in Ceylon for the only definite report is that of Petch in 1910 who successfully inoculated 6 Hevea stems out of 13 by means of spores of Phytophthora obtained from

diseased cacao fruits and of pieces of diseased cacao pods, and calculated from this experiment that the canker and fruit-disease of Hevea are caused by P. Faberi which is the cause of canker and pod-disease of cacao. No detailed description of the Phytophthora on Hevea fruits in Ceylon has been published. Seeing that both P. Meadii and P. Faberi infect Hevea fruits readily and that cacao is grown as an estate crop in Ceylon it is quite likely that it is P. Faberi that is attacking Hevea there though this does not preclude the possibility of P. Meadii being present also.

Dissemination of the fungus. The fungus appears to start its activity after the dry season at comparativeiy few points but when the monsoon has once burst it spreads rapidly on fruits and then to leaves. Sporangia are produced on the surface of the fruits in very large numbers indeed and the zoospores in correspondingly greater numbers. The rapid dissemination from the first few infected fruits can be explained by rain-drops that fall on these infected fruits splashing the spores considerable distances to other fruits. Faulwetter in an illuminating and suggestive paper showed by experiment that water is splashed by a falling drop only when it falls upon a film of water and it is the water of the film which composes the splash-drops. A drop 0·2 millimetre falling 16 feet on to a horizontal glass slide covered with a film of water splashed drops to 24 inches, on a plate inclined at 45° to 28 inches and on a plate inclined at 30° to 46 inches. When the plate was at 7 feet above the surface of the counter the distances were in the 1st and 3rd cases 42 and 66 inches respectively. He also found that in wind driven by an electric-fan and travelling at 10 miles an hour at the point of splash which was 3 feet above the floor a drop falling 16 feet splashed drops to an extreme distance of 18 feet. The size of the drops is comparable to that of rain drops and winds of 10 miles an hour and much more during the early part of the monsoon are often experienced on the rubber estates. With the almost continuous rain the opportunity of continuous distribution by splashing is given and even though frequent collisions between splash-drops and rain-drops will occur, thus preventing many of the former from reaching their extreme distance, still some of them will be carried off and be again splashed further distances. This explanation would seem to be sufficient to account for the rapid spread of the fungus from fruit to fruit and to leaves on an estate, and the great numbers produced on infected fruits provides many opportunities of their being washed down on the tapping surface,

Preventive Measures.—In connection with preventive measures the main facts regarding the fungus to be borne in mind are (1) that the mycelium passes the dry weather inside branches that have partially died back, (2) that spores, which are resting spores, are found in the fruit and (3) that the fruits are main propogating centres for multiplying the fungus. This suggests that the branches that have died back and the fruits should be dealt with. In the one case the aim is to stop the fungus from beginning its activity in the new season and in the other to stop its rapid propogation after it has once begun. If all branches that this fungus has caused to die back were removed, say a foot beyond the junction of living and dead tissues, many of the centres of infection that begin the new attack of the fungus each year, would be destroyed. Now all branches that die back on Hevea do not do so because of this fungus. There are other factors that produce die-back *e.g.*, shade causes the lower branches to die and other fungi *e.g.*, Bottryodiplodia theobromae Pat, and Gloeosporium alborubrum Petch also did so. There is no simple field method of distinguishing between these various

causes, so that, if die-back branches are to be removed, then all will have to be removed irrespective of the causative agent. Many of the branches that have died back are mere twigs while others are larger. There are many such on each tree—far more than is realised till the necessity comes to remove them—and they are scattered over the tree indiscriminately. To remove them to a very large extent is possible. The cost however would be greatest in the first year and would rapidly decrease in succeeding years, presuming that this method is found efficacious and is continued.

It has also been shown that the fungus may invade a branch along the fruit-stalk and that the fruit-stalks of rotted fruits may remain on the tree through the dry weather till the beginning of the monsoon. This is a real difficulty in the way of preventive measures, for it is impossible to remove every possible centre of infection of this kind. Even if all these old fruit-stalks were removed when the trees are bare in December-January there is the fact that the mycelium of the fungus invades the branches from which the fruit-stalks spring at their point of insertion. Removing die-back branches would not destroy this source of re-infection entirely.

Removal of the fruits before the brook of the monsoon or at the latest during the first fortnight of the monsoon, though this is cutting it rather fine for safety, would stop the rapid propogation of the fungus that begins about 15 days after the monsoon has set in. This would also for future infection get over the difficulty mentioned in last paragraph with regard to infection by fruit-stalks. If the fruits are not there to become infected the fruit-stalks would not carry the mycelium of the fungus into the branches. To remove fruits from a rubber tree is not an easy matter as they are scattered over young twigs towards the ends of the branches.

There is another possibility *i. e.*, the destruction of the flowers in order to prevent the formation of fruit. This might be done by mechanically removing the flowers or by spraying them with a chemical that would kill them. The stalk of the inflorescence is easily cut until it begins to become strengthened in order to bear the weight of the developing fruit. The inflorescences, however, borne, as they are on the numerous twigs on the outer ends of the branches are not easily reached even with a knife on the end of a long pole such as a shepherd uses to get down leaves of trees for his flocks. The manipulation of such a weapon at best is clumsy and it has been found that, unless the knife has a keener edge than a coolie can be expected to keep, the stalks bend before it instead of being cut by it. Again most of the inflorescences spring from the axils of leaves that are still on the twig and they cannot be removed without removing the leaves as well, thus causing a considerable amount of defoliation but this we particularly wish to avoid seeing that the new season's tapping is about to begin. Besides every inflorescence does not produce fruit so that removing all of them entails a great deal of unnecessary labour. In several estates in April and May twigs were examined on the inflorescences of which all the flowers had faded and the presence or absence of young fruits was noted. They were taken from the lower and middle branches of the trees as these were more easily accessible. On 63 twigs there were 651 inflorescences of which 230 had one or more fruits *i.e.*, only 35% of the inflorescenses bore fruit. Thus the difficulty of cutting the inflorescences because its stalk bends so readily before the knife, the unavoidable removal of leaves in doing it, and the low percentage of inflorescences that bear fruit render the removal of flowers by mechanical means impracticable.

Spraying the inflorescence with a chemical such as a solution of copper sulphate that would kill them is not under present conditions practicable. The trees are from 20 to 40 feet high so that power sprayers would have to be used and in order to get at each flower so much of the solution would be used that it would practically amount to spraying the tree. Besides it would be exceedingly difficult to spray the upper parts of trees from the ground as the side branches of trees on most well grown estates touch and sometimes overreach one another. The same applies in an increased degree to spraying the fruits as the stand of foliage is greater during the fruiting season. Spraying the fruits of areca palm, Areca catechu, with Bordeaux mixture as a preventive against the attack of Phytophthora Arecae (Colem.) Pethyb., has been a marked success. There, however, the fruits are aggregated in from one to three bunches on the single stem just under a crown of leaves and are comparatively easily accessible for spraying. Bordeaux mixture would protect the fruits of Hevea against Phytophthora just as effectively but their scattered position on the tree precludes its use at present for reasons of economy, while there is the additional reason against its use in that even traces of a salt of copper in latex causes the rubber to deteriorate and it is almost certain that traces of copper would be washed by rain into latex from sprayed trees. The action of any other protective fungicide on rubber would have to be investigated before it could be recommended as a spray. Besides in any extensive spraying operations the difficulty of getting enough water to spray in the dry weather would be great and the cost of treating the higher portions of an estate would be very high.

The question whether it is not possible to prevent trees from flowering or to reduce the amount of flowering by some cultural means has also been considered. The Government Economic Botanist has discussed this with me on estates but it does not seem feasible. Horticultural endeavour has been rather in the direction of increasing the flowering capacity of plants and so far as we know there are no cultural methods of preventing a tree from flowering or reducing the number of flowers it produces that are applicable in estate conditions.

It seems to me that the only feasible method of dealing with the fungus are removing the dead branches and the fruits and in 1917 four blocks of considerable size in widely separated parts of the rubber growing area were set apart for experiment which consisted in destroying all old fruits and debris, in removing and destroying, shortly after the season of periodic leaf-fall (practically in March and April), all branches that had died back and in removing and destroying all fruits before the 1st of June. This is being repeated this year and will give *data* as to the cost and the effectiveness of the measures undertaken in stopping or reducing the disease.

In last year's experiment the cost was about Rs. 19 an acre and where it was done on a hundred acre block as I asked, the result was that leaf-fall was reduced to a very small minimum. So much so that the individual tree that shed its leaves to any marked extent was distinctly *the* feature of the plot. It had its fruits on it (they having been inadvertantly missed at the time of operation) and they were infected by the Phytophthora. The experiment is being repeated this year on this block.

That the cost is high does not affect the experiment. All we want to find is whether these operations do reduce the effect of the disease. They have done so in the first trial and if they do so again this year then the point is demonstrated. Then other consideration of cost does come in when planters have to make up their minds whether the outlay in preventive measures is worth-while. In this connection the loss caused by the disease is one of the pertinent factors. Unfortunately the disease has come at the beginning of the industry. If it had only waited for a few years we would have definite yields of unaffected and affected trees to compare and would have been able to say definitely what the loss might be. Estates have been in bearing for only a few years, 8 or 10 at the most, and that on a comparatively small acreage which has gradually become affected by abnormal leaf-fall. It is thus difficult to estimate the latex yields that might normally be expected. That so far they have not come up to the expectation current at the time of planting is fairly generally conceded and part of the shortage is undoubtedly due to the effects on the trees of Phytophthora. The loss due to the rotting of fruits is a minor factor, as the utilisation of fruits for purposes other than planting, for the present at any rate, hardly comes into the estimate. From discussions with most of the planters who have had much to do with the disease I have come to the conclusion that 30 to 40 lbs. of made rubber per acre per annum is about the average loss and it may be as high as 70 or 80 on badly infected blocks of trees. This transposed into money value, with the rubber say at 2/9 per pound and the cost of production say 9 pence a pound, gives a loss of from £3 to £4 per acre per annum. If this estimate is anywhere nearly correct it is practicable to spend a fairly large sum on remedial or preventive measures on any estate.

There still remains to be discussed what measures meantime may be taken to check and prevent bark-rot. In untreated cases where the rot has sunk as deep as to the cambium the piece should be cleanly excised and the wound carefully painted with tar and tallow. The excised portion must be burnt and knives sterilised by dipping in an antiseptic solution e.g., 1% formalin. In certain areas of the district practically those in which rainfall is not excessive, and where bark-rot is not a pressing menace, it has been found sufficient to tap less deeply when bark-rot begins to appear and if that is not enough to stop tapping for a few weeks. This is usually quite sufficient and no further trouble occurs. The underlying cortex cuts off the infected piece of bark which ultimately scales off. In other parts of the district this is not enough and recourse is had to smearing the tapped surface with a mixture of tar and tallow. This is done as a preventive on blocks where experience has shown that bark-rot occurs and its use has proved successful. Enough tallow is melted with tar so that when cold the mixture is a paste and not a liquid. It can be carried round in any suitable vessel by the coolie who puts a thin smear on the renewing bark just above the tapped surface from with his thumb or with a piece of gunny and the consistency of the paste makes it easy to handle and prevents it running down over the tapping cut. A very little tar in cultural media inhibits the growth of the fungus. Concentration of half a per cent. or more of tar in a Quaker-oats-agar medium on which the fungus grows well, completely prevents growth while lower concentrations as far as 1% do not prevent growth in every case.

This particular experiment was carried on for a month and the fungus made a copious mycelial growth in the Quaker-oats-agar medium to which no tar had been added and in no case where the fungus grew in low concen-

trations of tar in the same medium was the growth anything like as good. I think it is both the water-proofing and the fungicidal qualities of the mixture that come into play in preventing the fungus from infecting the tree. With izal, one of the coal-tar products, a similar series of experiments was carried out.

Different concentrations of izal in water were made and in no case of ·1% or above did the mycelium grow or sporangia discharge. Izal is thus a powerful fungicide so far as this fungus is concerned and can be used in dilute solutions. As, however, it is to be applied in the monsoon a considerably more concentrated solution is required and 5% is the usual strength used on estates. The ordinary conical kitchen lamp makes a good receptacle, and the slightly projecting wick drawn along the tapping cut leaves a thin film of the izal solution. Other investigators have tried izal, and other similar substances and recommended as preventives 10% izal, 20% carbolineum, 20% brunolineum or 50% Jodelite to be applied as frequently as tapping is done. I have also found that the distillate from cocoanut-shells charred in a closed chamber (earthenware-pot) even in solutions of ·1% prevents the growth of the fungus in culture, but its effect in the field has not been tested yet. This is of some interest at the present time when the other substances are expensive or not easy to get.

I have seen folded strips of gunny tied round the trunks of trees in a slanting direction with good results. The rain-water streaming down the trunk was guided along the gunny and caused to run down the side of the tree away from the cut. The bark below the gunny in the region of the tapping surface remained comparatively dry as long as the gunny remained tight. This was being tried from the point of view of preventing flooding of the cups during heavy rain and it is a sound idea and well worth developing from the point of view of bark-rot. Something cheap and just good enough to last for the rainy months and then not worth the trouble of keeping till the next season would probably be the most suitable form. It must not be so tight round the tree that translocation through the bark is retarded and it must be tight enough above the tapping cut to prevent water percolating between it and the bark on to the tapped surface. The latter is the more difficult condition to satisfy but if the bark is smoothed and very slightly grooved it has been found possible to tie the "collar" on tight enough and seal the intervening space with tar. The difficulties are obvious and make-shifts will have to be made to get over them till more normal times when manufacturers can turn their minds to the production of some suitable device.

General measures with regard to estate ventilation will also indirectly help to reduce the amount of damage caused by this and other bark-diseases and that of course, is the immediate and main concern of preventive work. Most estates in South India were closely planted and the trees are now being thinned out to between 80 to 100 per acre. Lower branches, especially those that hang downwards, should also be cut off and this will give a larger freer air space and allow more light to get around the stems and so ensure that the bark grows and renews in more healthy conditions. Sooner or later, however, the crowns of the trees will develop till they come close together and form a more or less continuous canopy of leaves so that, after thinning, preventive measures applied to the bark are still as necessary. That gangs of specially trained coolies are necessary on estates for efficiently carrying out measures against diseases is generally recognised and in South India we have gone a step farther by providing at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore for writers who are to supervise those "pest gangs,"

a simple course in plant diseases with special reference to diseases of Hevea, and one day, I hope to attract young planters to the College for short courses on diseases of planters' crops.

THE CLASS.—Eleven estate writers were given a short course lasting 2½ months on plant diseases. All of them tried hard, with varying degrees of success. They were well-behaved, soon fell into College ways and some of them were an acquisition in the playing fields. When they got over their natural diffidence as they soon did seeing that the classes were informal discussions rather than lectures they soon got courage enough to ask questions and tell me when they did not understand. The first part was devoted to teaching them the broad facts of the structure of a plant and the functions of the various parts and also the methods of development of fungi how they get into plants, where they are in the plants, and what disturbances they make in the plants' tissues and the resultant symptoms of disease shown by infected plants. In this part examples of parasitic fungi were taken from living material available at the time whether it consisted of fungi on crops growing on the farm or on planters' crops. As all the members of the class came from rubber estates the second part of the course was devoted to diseases of Hevea brasiliensis. Coimbatore being far away from the rubber growing area no field demonstrations could be given but with the material in my laboratory supplemented by specimens kindly sent by various planters the class got a fair knowledge of what the main diseases look like and of the appearance of the fungi inside the tissues. This should give them such a knowledge of the various parasitic fungi that they can intelligently carry out remedial measures and not work simply by rule of thumb. Those that benefitted should thus be able to understand the object of each operation, its limitations and danger, and perhaps also to find out what is wrong when operations fail in their object as they sometimes do. I must confess that the aims are higher than the executions but this is neither the fault of the writers nor of the teacher. The lads work up to their full capability which we all of us know has definite limitations. I have had two suggestions for further classes.

(1) to take the same men for a more extended course after they have had some experience of work on the estates, and

(2) to repeat the class with new men.

I am willing to do both but suggest that the class be repeated this college year and a further course be given next year. I shall take 10 more men in the January to March term of 1919 and give the higher course towards the close of that year. There are nearly 10 writers from rubber estates on the waiting list now so I propose to confine the course to rubber diseases. It is realised, of course, that this is but one step in advance in dealing with rubber diseases. It suggested itself to me last year when I was leaving an estate on which preventive measures against a disease had suffered because the manager was engaged on other, for the moment more urgent work, that an Indian assistant of mental capacity above those usually employed would fill a gap that now exists. A man with a training in agriculture such as is given in a college like ours presuming he had a further training in plant diseases could take charge of the disease work on a large estate and relieve the manager of the supervision of the details of application of remedial measures which usually depend for their success on continuous, careful and intelligent supervision of the operations in the field and no manager has time for that. It is a want that managers of estates feel now and I have no dobut that they will act on the suggestion when things settle down again into normal times.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

No. 488-O. ROYAL EXCHANGE,
From The Secretary, *Calcutta, 30th May 1918.*
INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

To The Secretary to the Government of India,
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of the Indian Tea Association to address you with reference to the declared intention of the Government to impose a liability for income-tax upon the tea industry in respect of that portion of their income which is said to be derived from business other than agriculture. The Committee learn with the utmost surprise that Government propose to regard tea estates as quasi agricultural concerns and they desire to maintain most strongly the view, which has remained unquestioned for so many years, that the income of tea concerns is wholly agricultural within the meaning of the Income Tax Act.

2. The Government evidently rely on the opinion of the Advocate-General of Bengal, given in December 1915. This opinion deals with the true construction of section 5 (*1*) (*b*) (*ii*) of the old Income Tax Act which section reappears in the new Act as section 2 (*1*) (*b*) (*ii*). The Committee are not prepared to admit the validity of this opinion. It is common knowledge that, shortly after the Income Tax Act of 1886 became law, the true construction of section 5 (*1*) (*b*) (*ii*) became a matter of controversy, and was eventually referred to the Advocate-General of that day for his opinion. The opinion then given was as follows:—

"Under the provisions of section 5 (*1*) (*b*) (*ii*) of the Act which exempts from taxation any income derived from the performance by a cultivator or receiver of rent in kind of any process ordinarily employed by a cultivator or receiver of rent in kind to render the produce raised or received fit to be taken to market, an indigo or tea planter who manufactures indigo or tea grown by himself or received as rent and derives an income therefrom is in my opinion exempted from the payment of income-tax."

This opinion has been accepted by the Government and has been consistently acted on from the time it was given until the present time. The Committee hold the view that this opinion, which has been accepted by all concerned without question for so many years, cannot be discarded in favour of that of Dr. Kenrick, more especially as no attempt was made to enforce the doctrine laid down in Dr. Kenrick's opinion; and in the budget speech of March 1916, the Financial Member (who it must be presumed was well aware of the opinion given by Dr. Kenrick some months before) expressly stated, as one of the justifications for the imposition of an export duty on tea, that tea was not subject to income tax.

3. The legal question involved depends entirely upon the construction that is to be placed upon the provisions of section 2 (*1*) (*b*) (*ii*) of the present Act, which repeats section 5 (*1*) (*b*) (*ii*) of the old Act. The material words are "'Agricultural income' means any income derived from the performance by a cultivator of any process ordinarily employed by a cultivator to render the produce raised by him fit to be taken to market." The Government of India have expressed the view that the words "any process ordinarily employed by a cultivator" in effect mean the performance of any crude domestic process for fitting agricultural produce for sale. In spite of Dr. Kenrick's endorsement, the Committee see no justification for this view. Tea garden proprietors are unquestionably "cultivators" of tea, the process they now employ has been "ordinarily employed" for many years, and the sole object of that process is to fit the tea for market. The process employed in the preparation of the tea leaf for market is in all essentials the same as was employed before the introduction of machinery,

and is merely complementary to, and essential to, the more elementary agricultural operations of cultivating and plucking the leaf. The machinery merely enables the preparation for market to be carried out more efficiently and in less time. The use of machinery in the tea industry involves no more deviation from ordinary agricultural methods than the use of threshing machines or other mechanical contrivances in general agriculture.

The principle now proposed to be adopted by the Government is a direct encouragement to cultivators of all classes to primitive and uneconomical methods, by imposing a liability for taxation wherever modern machinery and methods are adopted, thereby retarding the general progress of the country, and actually reducing the Government revenue which rises with, and is largely dependent on, the prosperity of the mass of the population, namely the workers on the land.

4. It has been suggested that the imposition of this tax should be treated as a war measure, and that as such it should be submitted to without question, but such a suggestion is clearly based on a complete misconception both of the nature and of the incidence of the tax. That it is not a war measure is sufficiently established, not only by the fact that the tax is intended to be a permanent one, but also by the statement made by the Finance Member in introducing the Budget of the current year when he said "there is no present necessity for adding to the fresh imposts imposed during the last two years. "We therefore keep our taxation on the existing level." It is assumed that it will be universally admitted that, whatever the reason for the introduction of new taxation may be, such taxation should, so far as is reasonably possible, be distributed equitably amongst the various sections of the tax paying community, and it is submitted that there can be no possible equitable justification for the selection of the tea industry as the subject of special additional taxation. The Finance Member expressly based the justification for the imposition of the special export duty on tea, which was introduced in 1918 on the fact that the industry did not pay income-tax. Apart from this special export tax the industry also contributes large sums to the Indian revenue in the shape of land tax.

The attempt to impose this double duty on one of the few industries in the development of which the Indian community is beginning to take any important part is a curious commentary on the avowed intentions of the Government to foster by every possible means the development of Indian industries.

5. It is with the utmost unwillingness that the Committee feel themselves called upon to deal with a further aspect of this case, namely, that of the manner in which this proposal, for what unquestionably amounts to new taxation, has been introduced. The information at present before the Committee discloses a procedure so extraordinary that they feel that in the interest not only of the industry which they represent but of the public at large, and indeed of the Government itself, the matter requires a most searching investigation and full publication of the reasons which, in the opinion of the Government, justify the course which they have adopted. In the absence of further explanations the Committee feel it impossible for them to avoid the conclusion that the Government have deliberately concealed from the public their intention of imposing this new taxation and have announced it only when they considered it to be a *fait accompli*.

6. The Committee trust that explanations will be forthcoming which will fully exculpate the Government Department concerned, but the following short statement of what has actually taken place shows the urgent necessity for such explanations.

In December 1915, Dr. Kenrick's opinion, to the effect that the tea industry was liable to income tax, was obtained by the Government.

In March 1916, Sir William Meyer, in his Budget Speech, stated definitely that the justification for introducing the export duty on tea was that the tea industry was free of income tax.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the new Income Tax Bill, it was stated expressly that "the Bill was not designed either by "altering the rates of the tax *or otherwise* to raise money, and for this "reason it retained the existing exemption from the tax on agricultural incomes."

In January 1918, the Government of India issued a circular to the local Governments, which circular has only recently come to the knowledge of the industry concerned, in which it is stated that in order to make it clear that business which, though agricultural produce forms their raw material, are really industrial are liable to pay the tax, the word 'factory,' which finds a place in the proviso to Section 5(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act, has been omitted from the definition of agricultural income in clause 2 of the Bill; and from this circular letter it appears that it was the deliberate intention of the Finance Department to subject the tea industry to income tax as soon as the Bill had been passed into law.

On the 1st March 1918 in his Financial Statement the Finance Member made the definite statement above quoted as to there being no necessity for the introduction of new taxation.

Later in the same month the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, which included the Finance Member presented their report on the Income Tax Bill and in this report it is definitely stated that "the Bill was "primarily one for the improvement of the methods and machinery of "collection and not for increase or decrease of taxation." Throughout the discussion on the Bill it was repeatedly stated that no new taxation was intended to be imposed thereby.

7, It now transpires that in spite of these statements it was in fact the intention of the Government to impose the income tax on the tea industry, and that the amendment of the old Section 5(1)(c) by the omission of the word 'factory' was made for the express purpose, and for no other. It is difficult to see how the ommission of any reference to this important alteration from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and from the explanatory statements made by the Member in charge of the Bill, can possibly be justified. Had any intimation of the intententions of the Government, as disclosed in the circular letter to the local Governments above referred to, been given to the public it is obvious that these proposals would have met with the strongest criticism, both on their merits, and as an attempt to introduce new taxation in a Bill primarily intended to deal with matters of procedure only.

8. It may possibly be argued that no question of levying new taxation arises as, according to the opinion of Dr. Kenrick, the old Act in fact authorised the imposition, but it is submitted that this view is contrary to the interpretation of the old Act which was accepted without question for many years past by the Revenue authorities of all the provinces concerned, and that, whatever the technical construction of the Act may be, it is the fact that the tax has never actually been levied, and its imposition at this date is unquestionably a piece of "new taxation" in every sense in which the public can have been reasonably expected to understand the references thereto in the declarations of Government of their intentions as regards the new Income Tax Act.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Yours most obedient servant
H. M. HAYWOOD, *Secretary.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Extracts from letters from the Son of an Old Kotagiri Planter, who has been in the West Front almost from the beginning, and got the M. C. for the Vimy Ridge and the Big Push.

.....on the 21st my Battalion was thrown into the front line to "hang on and stop the Boshe. For 6 days and nights we fought like the deuce with great masses of Boshe—they came on and on in their thousands and were on three sides of us but we fought clear—we moved them down with machine guns and cut great lanes in them with shell but still they came on. It was all fighting in the open as he was through all our trenches and for once we tasted open warfare—it was great.

The Colonel got detached and I was left with 2 Companys which I fought for several days and nights—they were splendid. There was no sleep and no food but they stuck to me and fought on like tigers. On the 6th day I withdrew all I had left—a little bunch of men. I was not touched so .....your prayers are all right. I was buried twice by shells and blown under a railway truck by a another but was'nt cut anywhere it was hell for a day or two as the Boshe were armed with swarms of chattering machine guns which did a lump of damage. We eventually fell back on the 28th and marched the remnants of the Division (25th) away back where we entrained and came up here to a quiet part of the line to refit and re-organise.

The Battalion was done magnificently though we have lost badly we have got even as we knocked spots off the Boshe. The Colonel was not wounded and did splendidly. I am absolutely worn out as there has been no sleep and so much to do.....Don't worry, I am all right.....my Colonel's mother lives in Coonoor—he knows that country well, he was born in Coonoor himself.....Well.....Cheero-keep smiling and I will come through all right, the men say I have a charmed life.

4—4—18.

.....I sent you a few lines the other day saying that I was all right and telling you how we got involved in the thick of the big Boshe break though. There is not much to say about it, except that it was a very hot 6 days and nights and how we ever came through beats me—however some of us did and here we are alive and kicking and ready for the next performance. We are up in a quiet part of the line refitting and reequipping as hard as we can as we lost everything we possessed in the withdrawal. My battalion was fighting rear guard the whole time so all we came out with was that we stood in. It was an experience I will never forget seeing these masses of grey ever advancing while we tore great holes in them with our guns and rifles—it was murder.

My boys were simply wonderful—they would not fall back and I had a devil of a job to get them out of some nasty holes. They were seeing red and they were leaving a lot of pals behind and the very devil was loose in their hearts. I will never forget these Welshmen.

I am ever so glad that the Colonel pulled through—he was splendid. At one time a message came to me saying that he and a company had gone under to a man. I was mad with anxiety and you can imagine my joy when I came upon him safe and sound some time later. He waved his tin hat to me and shouted out ".....Thank God" He always calls me.....He had heard that my 2 Companies had "gone West" and was equally glad to see us.

Things have settled down in their old ways, we have new faces filling the gaps but they are not the same; it was hard to have to leave even the dead to the Boshe but it had to be and our wounded I hope are being

decently cared for—one could'nt bring them. The artillery were splendid they hung on till the Boshe was 100 yards off and they cut great lanes in his masses by point blank shooting before they destroyed the breech blocks and cleared—those who could.

There were wonderful scenes of gallantry that will never be heard of and all the time one felt so proud to be British—there was no shirking, no funking but ever that Bull-dog spirit. They were fine.

Open warfare in the game. I have no use for the trench to trench game using all manner of primitive methods of fighting—put them in the open and see what the boys can do. My division was up against 8 Boshe Divisions. We smashed up those eight—piled them up in great pyramids of grey and yet more came, well.....keep smiling all will come out all-right. The Boshe is now held all along he has over reached himself, true, he is massing for a huge show which is certain to come he will probably get more ground but he is paying for it and paying dear, I know because I have seen and I have had a chattering machine gun in my own hands ! it was the best bit of fun I have ever had ! !.....Take care of yourselves.....I have thought a lot of you lately but never mind all that is over and I am all serene.

Madras, 29th May, 1918.

U. P. A. S. I. Representative in the Chamber of Commerce Madras.

J. S. NICOLLS, ESQ.,
The Chairman,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Daverashola Estate, Devarshola P. O.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 4th May, 1918, proposing the name of Mr. A. H. Mead of Moopilley Valley Rubber Co., Ltd., to represent the interests of your Association, as an Honorary Member of Chamber, I beg to advise you that he was elected as an Honorary Member at the General Monthly Meeting held on the 28th instant on the proposition of the Hon'ble Mr. Gordon Fraser, Seconded by Mr. John Black of the National Bank of India, Ltd., Madras.

I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) .....
Secretary.

Daverashola Estate,
Devarshola P. O.,
Nilgiris, 2nd June 1918.

TO THE SECRETARY,
The Chamber of Commerce,
Madras.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for your letter of 29th ultimo informing me that Mr. A. H. Mead had been duly elected as an Honorary member of your Chamber. Will you please convey to your members, the appreciation of my Association at his election.

I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. S. NICOLLS,
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

No. 49-T.C. Indian Tea Cess Committee,
Royal Exchange,
Calcutta, 24th May, 1918.

THE HON'BLE SIR FAIRLESS BARBER,
Ootacamund.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 29th April, with reference to Mr. Newby's remarks on Coffee at the last half-yearly meeting of the Cess Committee.

2. The Executive Committee have read your letter, and have carefully considered the points which you raise. They regret that you do not regard my previous communication as being in any way a satisfactory reply to your letter of 20th March. They do not think that they would be advancing matters by again discussing the subject in detail as their views were fully explained in my letter of 20th April. Your suggestion that they should expunge Mr. Newby's remarks, from the proceedings of the meeting of the Cess Committee, is one which it would be *ultra vires* for them to adopt. They are merely a Sub-Committee of the Cess Committee and, being such, they obviously cannot alter the proceedings of the body by whom they are appointed.

3. The Executive Committee are including your letter of 29th April in their proceedings, for the information of the other Members of the Cess Committee.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) .....
Secretary.

Ootacamund, 29th May, 1918.

Mr. Newby and the Indian Tea Cess Committee.

THE SECRETARY,
Indian Tea Cess Committee,
Royal Exchange,
Calcutta.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of the 24th May replying to mine of the 29th of April.

2. I note that the Executive Committee are unable to agree to my suggestion that they should expunge Mr. Newby's remarks from the Proceedings of the Cess Committee and I appreciate the point they make. I would now therefore ask that the Committee recommends the Tea Cess Committee to expunge these remarks.

3. I regret that this matter has occurred, especially as there is some agitation in South India that the Tea Cess collected in South India should be spent and controlled in South India. I quote from the report of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Travancore Combined Planters' Association :—

> "Another point mentioned was the desirability of the South India "portion of the Indian Tea Cess being controlled by the U. P. "A.S.I. and not by the Indian Tea Association as it is now raised. "Everyone present was in favour of this proposed reform."

Funds at present raised by the collection of tea cess in South India are not enough to do much good, and I feel it would be a pity for the South Indian planter to separate himself from the Indian Tea Cess as at present controlled.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) E. F. BARBER.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.
"Unity" "Majority."

To THE EDITOR.
Planters' Chronicle,

Sir,—Those two headings one is getting tired of seeing in the Chronicle. It is now time for the COFFEE man to have his say in the proposed Re-Organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. Mr. Vincent has put the position with regard to the RUBBER Planters view in the new scheme as clearly as it is possible to be done and told the Powers that be that the Rubber man Is going to have a Special Mycologist he is prepared to pay for one and whether the U. P. A. S. I. like it or not. Then the Present Control Members have practically guaranteed them that the money they put into the coffers of the U. P. A. S. I. will be devoted to the SPECIAL object.

Now Mr. Martin has made many valuable suggestions with regard to the Advertising of our Coffee and to have a paid Secretary and for him to travel over India and open up Markets for our product.

It would cost about Rs.30.000 and if the Coffee owner comes in. Why not make that a stipulation that WE get the direct benefit from the Money WE put in to the U. P. A. S. I.

The present Members of the LABOUR DEPARTMENT have a good thing on and let them keep it.

I should be very glad to pay MY Re. 1 per acre if we got what we want, but as for the LABOUR DEPARTMENT it is a wash out as far as I am concerned. Ceylon has NEVER combined with regard to LABOUR and you will find that India will follow suit. LABOUR is the bone of contention and yet is thrown at us every time. There are many men who joined the LABOUR DEPARTMENT and never once written a letter to the Department, but in many cases it is not their Money that they are spending but their Proprietors, a very different case if it was coming out of their Pockets!!

Now Mr. Martin here is your chance. You will get your following if you will take this point up. OPENING OF NEW MARKETS for Coffee.

Yours, etc.,
COFFEE.

Tea.

Copy of telegram dated 27th May 1918 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number 76. Your 25th percentage of nett weight of Native Owned Gardens should be checked. Checking gross weight not sufficient. Please make special arrangements for checking weight Chittagong and South India. Assuming 1918 crop to be 373 million we have made 12 months contract and will draw 66 percent from each garden. Essential you should see that you get correct percentage of each grade of each invoice. Your Experts should give special attention as to quantity and reject teas where quality is not up to standard.

Memo No. 1216-86 T.C., dated the 28th May 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Asseciation of Southern India, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India.
No. 12293/13335 T.C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings Calcutta,

From LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 30th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I have the honour to circulaie for your information the following extracts from correspondence with the Food Controller in regard to the necessity for insuring that in the case of 1918 teas the standard of manufacture is maintained. that tea is packed in sound chests, and that full weight and the usual percent of grade are supplied:—

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER DATED THE 3RD APRIL 1918.

"I am glad to see fhat you have now made very thorough arrangements for the examination of packages before shipment. It is absolutely essentiai that no packages should be shipped unless quite sound, and I cabled you my number 26, that you must reject all chests which Steamer Companies would not give a clean Bill of Lading."

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER, DATED THE 11TH APRIL 1918.

"This Ministry is now negotiating with the Indian Tea Association, London, as regards the new contract for 1918 teas, and I will take this opportunity of pointing out to you how necessary it is that your tea experts should give special care to the new crop as regards standard of quality in order to see that no coarse plucking is being made and that the standard or, quality for the 1918 crop is fully up to the standard of quality of previous years of manufacture."

I would also ask you to give instructions to see that the packages used when delivered for shipment are in a sound merchantable condition, and that all packages should be rejected that your experts do not think sufficiently sound to carry tea to the United Kingdom."

EXTRACT FROM CABLE NO. 72 DATED 17TH MAY 1918.

"Please arrange to check weights of proportion of each shipment. Give special attention to checking garden weight of Locality Controlled and particularly Native Owned Gardens. Warn seriously any giving bad weights."

EXTRACT FROM CABLE NO. 76 DATED THE 27TH MAY, 1918.

"Assuming 1918 crop to be 373 million we have made 12 months contract and will draw 66 per cent. from each garden. Essential you should see that you get correct percentage of each grade of each invoice. Your exports should give special attention as to quantity and reject teas where quality is not up to standard."

The Food Controller has also informed me that the terms of the new (1918) contract will probably be practically the same as those of the old (1917) contract.

2. In view of the Food Controller's remarks and instructions reproduced above, I would request you to be so good as to impress very strongly upon the Managers of Tea Estates represented by you, the necessity for taking the utmost care to insure that the manufacture of 1918 teas is up to the previous standard, and that quality is not sacrificed to quantity. It is essential also that the teas should be packed in sound chests, of sufficient strength to stand the voyage to the United Kingdom, and lined with lead of adequate thickness; that each consignment should be a representative one, containing the usual proportions of all grades and that the gross and nett

weights should correspond with those entered in the garden invoices. As desired by the Food Controller, I am taking steps to arrange for the check of the nett and gross weights of a proportion of each shipment. The Food Controller's urgent instruction regarding the quality of the packing and the check of weights tend to the inference that he has found a shortage of weight in some of the chests shipped, and that some of the latter have arrived in a damaged condition. From his special reference to Locally Controlled and Native Owned Concerns, it seems likely that the shortage was greatest in the case of the teas of these Concerns. This is probably due to the fact that in the past a large proportion of the teas of such Concerns have been packed with a view to sale in the local markets and not with a view to export, with the result that in some cases the chests are not so durable as those used for packing for export and that a portion of their contents was consequently lost owing to damage to the chests. There is no reason to suppose that the full invoiced quantity was not originally packed in the chests. It has, in fact, been noticed here both by the inspecting experts and myself that the chests used by a number of these Concerns for packing their 1917 teas were unduly frail. I would, therefore, ask you to convey a special warning to the Managers of Locally Controlled Tea Estates that their 1918 teas must be packed in sound, durable chests, failing which I shall be obliged to reject their teas.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 12336/49 T.C., dated the 30th May, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, of Southern India, Bangalore, for information.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 12351/93-T. C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From LIEUT.-Col. W M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses Firms and Estates shipping tea for the Food Controller.

Dated the 30th May, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I circulate for your information the following cable which I have received from the Food Controller, regarding the system of payment for the new (1918) contract teas :—

"Number 77 under new contract payment will be made 60 per cent. sterling draft four months date on London accompanied by documents balance will be paid by us to London Agents. Locally controlled payments entirely by four months date draft."

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 12394/402 T.C., dated the 30th May, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, (S.I.), Bangalore.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 24.] JUNE 15, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8,

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

At the request of the Rubber Growers' Association, we publish some communications from the Rubber Association of America and the Rubber Trade Association of London.

We publish from the Board of Trade Journal some interesting facts on Yemen coffee, which is the main product of that country.

Our correspondence contains a letter from the General Secretary of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, which shows how determined the Empire is not to employ Germans after the War.

Mr. Brooke Mockett, to whom chiefly the Coffee Planting Community owe the relief they now enjoy writes of the Greek Purchase of 2,000 tons of coffee. This Government took 1,775 tons of Parchment and 225 tons of Native Coffee, payment for which will be made by the Greek Government by sterling Bill on demand at the London County and Westminister Bank, Limited, 41, Lothbury E. C., and Exchange Banks have been requested to give preferential treatment to this coffee and we understand that they are prepared to purchase these bills and pay shippers in rupees.

Mr. Gompertz writes on the Re-Organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

The sincerest sympathy will go out from all to the bereaved parents of the gallant son, extracts from whose letters have so recently appeared.

The Honorary Secretary, Bangalore Soldiers' Aid Committee, asks us to publish the following names of subscribers and thank them for their generous contribution :—

		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Mr. C. Lake (monthly subscription)	...	5	0	0			
Mr. S. P. S. Clere Raymond	...	10	0	0			
Mr. A. P. Biddayya	...	10	0	0			
Bangalore and Coorg and Mysore Rifle I.D.F. (Guest night North Coorg Platoon Mess, Mercara)	...	100	0	0			
					125	0	0
Already acknowledged	...	...			578	0	0
Total	...				703	0	0

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

		Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	... ...	70,931	0	0
Malabar Club, Calicut	... ...	59	0	0
Total Rs.	...	70,990	0	0

THE RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

(INCORPORATED).

38, Eastcheap,
London, E. C. 3,
22nd April, 1918.

Dear Sir(s).

PACKING OF RUBBER.

I am instructed to draw your attention to the following communications which have been received from The Rubber Association of America (Incorporated), and The Rubber Trade Association of London.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. READ,
Acting Secretary.

The Rubber Association of America,
(Incorporated),
17, Battery Place, New York,
March 23rd, 1918.

To Rubber Manufacturers and Importers.

As the press publications have noted, the War Trade Board has had under consideration the question of a drastic curtailment in the import of various raw materials, amongst them crude rubber, the object of these restrictions being to make available every possible cubic foot of shipping space for use in the Atlantic.

The Committee on Rubber and Kindred Products has been in close touch with the situation, furnishing interested authorities from time to time statistics and information that they were called upon to give or felt pertinent to the situation.

In our study of the subject we have found rubber has been satisfactorily transported from the East packed under compression in burlap bales with a cloth liner bound with steel bands or wire, with a resultant saving in steamship space of approximately 25 per cent. and in weight 20 per cent. The rubber arrived in excellent condition.

The concern that has developed the practicability of this method of packing has very generously placed the full facts at the disposal of the industry.

In order to deal with the situation intelligently and fairly to all shippers in the for East the Rubber Association of America has appointed a Committee of five to be located at Singapore, consisting of the following:—

Mr. W. T. Easly,	Mr. J. J. Blandin.
Mr. John Donaldson.	Mr. R. J. Obott.

Mr. H. S. Godwin.

The device employed is a steel press with a packing capacity of about 5 tons per day. About 100 of them have been ordered by the Association, the larger part of which are now already in transit to Singapore.

These presses will be disposed of by the Committee to those desiring to purchase them, at approximately their cost and expense to the Association, and every effort will be made to distribute them in the fairest possible manner, not only in the Malay States but Ceylon, the Dutch Indies, and adjacent rubber-producing countries.

In the meantime, certain concerns in the East have been able to procure wooden presses locally with a smaller daily capacity.

The War Trade Board has expressed their hearty interest in this plan and has inquired from us as to our ideas of a date when this form of packing or something similar thereto must be followed in order to obtain an import licence.

Therefore it is quite probable that after a certain prescribed time rubber will have to be more closely packed as a condition allowing its entry into this country.

We are now faced with the possibility of serious curtailment in our imports. The saving in space to be effected by this plan should in a measure compensate for any reduction in space that will be allocated to rubber.

Very truly yours,
Committee on Rubber and Kindred Products,
C. T. WILSON,
Chairman.
H. S. VORHIS,
Secretary.

THE RUBBER TRADE ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.
6. Mincing Lane, E.C.,
15th April, 1918.

To the Rubber Growers' Association,
38, Eastcheap, E.C., 3.

Dear Sirs,—We have to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 18th, ult. enclosing copies of correspondence with the Rubber Association of America regarding the packing of Rubber for shipment.

We have every sympathy with the desire to save freight space, but foresee that very considerable difficulties might arise from the shipment of pressed or blocked Rubber and from the shipment of Rubber in other packages than cases on existing contracts for forward deliveries which specify delivery in cases. These contracts will run up to the end of the current year, and possibly in some cases beyond that, and it will be necessary for the Estates to make provision for the due fulfilment of all such contracts. This Association has no powers to modify the terms of existing contracts, and it could only be done by securing the written consent of every party to the contracts both here and in America, with a guarantee that no claims would be made for blocked or pressed Rubber. If the Rubber Association of America can get the necessary consent of all buyers on their side, or can guarantee the acceptance of Rubber in the proposed from and packing by American buyers without claims, we foresee no difficulty being raised by Brokers or Dealers here.

As regards unsold Rubber the Estates are obviously free to sell it in whatever form they may wish, bearing in mind of course that the acceptance of pressed or blocked First Crepe or Ribbed Smoked Sheet as Standard quality would necessitate fresh regulations as might be agreed upon between this Association and yours. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Manufacturers do not like blocked or pressed Rubber on account of the extra labour involved in preparing it for manufacture, which is a consideration of practical weight in present conditions, and for that reason will only buy it at a sensible discount. Whether the extra quantity that could be shipped would prove a sufficient compensation to the Producers for the discount on pressed Rubber and the lower prices brought about by increased supplies is a matter for them to consider. It is possible that the result in sterling might not justify the contemplated action.

Our market buyers objection to the proposed method of packing would probably be that it renders it almost impossible to examine the Rubber adequately on arrival. If all shipments were made by reputable Estates this objection would not arise, but a considerable quantity is sold and shipped by Chinamen and others who do not command the same confidence, and it is feared that false packing would be practised and confidence in the quality of shipments be lost, with unfortunate results all round.

We understand that the—— Estate has a method of packing by which it is able to put 200 lbs. of Crepe into the standard size case without its becoming pressed, and we have asked Messrs. Lewis and Peat to furnish you with particulars, as these might prove to be of practical utility.

I am, dear Sirs,
Yours faithfully,
J. D. JOHNSTON, Chairman.

Particulars referred to:—

A METHOD OF PACKING RUBBER.

Owing to the scarcity of Cases suitable for packing Rubber and the proposal to bale same to save freight, we have been comparing the weights contained in various cases from different Plantations.

One of our Marks has always been noted for the great weight of Rubber they manage by their system of packing to get into a case.

The cases here used are the *Venesta* of two sizes.

Into a case 22½ *inches by* 21 *inches by* 21 *inches* they manage to pack from 210 *lbs. to* 220 *lbs*, nett weight of Crepe, or 260 *lbs.* nett weight of Smoked Ribbed Sheet.

A case 22½ *inches by* 19 *by* 19 was found to contain 180 *lbs. nett weight of Crepe.*

The cases on arrival were bulged out at the sides and in fair condition only, and the Rubber showed no signs of *massing* or *pressing.*

The method of making the Crepe is, we understand, as follows:—

First machine very thin and dry in the usual way, then set the even speed roller to a set *width* to make the *width* of the lengths of Crepe exactly to fit the *width* of the case (*i.e.*, four or five widths, according to the size of the case). Three or four lengths of the thin Crepe are then lightly rolled into one of about a quarter of an inch thickness. A diamond ribbed roller is, we believe quite satisfactory for the operation.

When dry the lengths of Crepe are *not* folded *to pack*, but are *cut into pieces the exact length of the case*, thereby saving all corners and spaces involved by folding.

The method employed in making *Sheet* is the same. Long lengths are made of exact width to fit the case, and again no folding is done, and the lengths of Sheet are cut square across.

No side trimming is done to either the *Crepe or Sheet*, the evenness of the edges being obtained by the guides on the Even Speed Rollers.

Samples of Rubber prepared and packed in this way *have been passed by the Standard Qualities Committee as Standard Crepe and Standard Smoked Ribbed Sheet.*

Samples of Rubber made in this way can be seen at our Office.

VENESTA Cases are, we believe, now unobtainable, but it is obvious that if the Rubber is prepared in a suitable manner, as described above, a much greater weight than is at present packed can be put into MOMI or locally made Cases.

COFFEE.

This main product of Yemen agriculture will require cautious handling after the war. In 1909 there was a substantial increase in the value of this export as compared with the previous four years; but since the rain shortage throughout the Yemen highlands in the summer of 1910 there has been a great falling-off both in quality and quantity, for many growers never emerged from the financial straits in which they were then involved. At the end of 1913 Hodeidah merchants were handling coffee very timidly, and unanimously complained that there was no money in it.

The average prices for coffee, f. o. b. per bag of 50 kilos. (about 110 lbs.) were as follows in 1910 to 1912:—

District.	1910. Francs.	1911. Francs.	1912. Francs.
Matar	83	92	115
Anis	81	90	113
Heimah	78	87	110
Sherqi (Eastern districts) ...	77	86	109
Harraz	76	85	109
Reimah Hijash ...	75	84	107
Bura Taiz (Southern Yemen) ...	73	82	105
Melhan	72	81	104

In Cairo, before the War, average Yemen coffee was retailed at 9 piastres per kilog. say 112 francs for the 50 kilog. bag. This gave a very narrow margin of profit, notwithstanding the fact that Hodeidah prices had fallen since 1912 owing to the local merchants buying short. This steep rise in prices was due to enhanced difficulties in transit, owing to local lawlessness and the apathy of the Ottoman Government; and to agricultural depression—as mentioned above—and the absence of financial credit; for there is no machinery by which a Hodeidah merchant can recover from an inland grower, so that cash advances to stimulate production are out of the question. Thus handicapped, competition in markets normally overloaded with South American coffee is not good business, but it should be borne in mind that high-grade Yemen coffee will always command a market under fair conditions. This is particularly the case on the London market.

The following figures for 1909 show the normal movements of exported coffee:—

Markets.	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £.
French (chiefly Marseilles)	1,849	112,995
United States of America (New York and Boston)...	836	51,000
Egypt	908	56,225
Aden (for re-export)	372	22,750
London	242	14,800

Grades of Coffee.

Concerning the various grades of coffee, the following facts are worth noting :—

Harrazi coffee heads the market for quantity and general average of quality.

The highest grades are Matari and Anisi—they are noted for the hardness and regularity of the beans. If stored too long at Hodeidah, or elsewhere on the coast where the air is invariably damp, the bean of both these grades is apt to whiten at the ends, which infallibly denotes deterioration to the practised buyer. The Anisi bean is pale yellow, and very hard ; it stores better than the Matari.

The districts of Heimah and Reimah may be bracketted for yield and quantity ; the bean is somewhat irregular.

Coffee from Mount Bura heads the lower grades, and is noted for the reddish tinge of the bean, which it losses if stored too long in the damp atmosphere of Hodeidah.

The yield from J. Melhan is considered generally inferior to all other grades.

The vague term Sherqi. or eastern, covers a large tract of country, and includes various grades, An average quality ranks in the market with the best from J. Remiah.

Most of the Taizi coffee (S. Yemen) is imported via Aden.

It should be noted also that the standard quality in the various districts may vary from year to year, owing to irregular harvesting, which is traceable to financial pressure on growers, or to political disturbances. Large tracts of coffee have been destroyed in disturbed areas. *The Board of Trade Journal.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation.

Elveyn House,
62, Oxford Street, London, W. I.,
15th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,—The notice of the Executive Committee of this Organisation has been drawn to the fact that firms and companies in this country with overseas branches are receiving numerous applications for employment overseas, from Aliens, who state that they are of neutral nationality Swedish, Swiss, Danish, Dutch, etc. Most people take no notice of such applications, but my Executive desire to urge upon all British employers the importance of replying to alien applicants that it is their rule to employ in their business, in whatever district only men of British birth, preferably returned soldiers, or if none are obtainable, then men from Allied countries.

It is of importance at this time of crisis that British business men should make it clear to the world that they are determined now, and after the War, to preserve British Trade, British Employment and the resources of the Empire for men of our own race, or for the Allies who have fought side by side with us in the War.

German writers are never tired of assuring the German business world that when the War is over the British "nation of shopkeepers" will go back to their old ways, will employ Germans and trade with Germany, and open their markets and their doors to Germans as before.

Hence our enemies are encouraged to believe that their market and employment in England will be secured, whatever the issue of the struggle.

We cannot too strongly urge upon business men throughout the Empire, that if they will take action as above suggested, and make their decision widely known, it will go far to impress upon our enemies that whatever the terms of peace may be, they shall not be allowed again to return to British Territory on the old footing, and that the longer the War lasts the more stringent will be the terms imposed upon them—not by Governments or by Peace Treaties, but by the irrevocable determination of the British business man

Already several important companies have taken action on these lines and we appeal to firms, associations, etc., throughout the Empire to follow their lead.

We shall be glad if you will bring the matter to the notice of your members, and we shall have pleasure in sending you as many copies of this letter as you may require for circulation.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
G. MAKGILL,
General Secretary.

23, Gledhow Gardens,
South Kensington,
London, S. W. 23rd April, 1918.

Coffee.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Dear Sir,—On 22nd and again on 28th March I advised you by cable that there was prospect of Greece buying 2,000 tons of coffee in India. My object in wiring thus was to inform the Planting Community that there was a possibility of a considerable improvement in the market, and I hoped that this would prevent those of my brother planters who were disposed to regard the position as hopeless from sacrificing their coffee at the wretched prices then prevailing. At that time I did not feel justified in going beyond stating that there was "a prospect" or "a possibility" of Greece purchasing, the negotiations not being far advanced.

These negotiations had been going on for several weeks, and I had had many interviews with Mr. Kershaw, C.I.E., C.S.I., of the India Office, and with the officers of the Food Control on the subject.

On the 19th April a final conference presided over by Mr. Kershaw, who has worked incessantly to help us, took place at the India Office and there were present, the Representatives of the Government of Greece, two officials of the International Commission, Mr. Cox, and myself as your Representative. After much consideration it was finally arranged that the Government of India acting on behalf of Greece should at once purchase 2,000 tons of coffee in India through the Agency of the various coast firms, as much as possible to be plantation coffee, and the balance to be native. The coffee to be of fair quality and to be packed in double bags and the price to be Rs. 46 per cwt. F. O B. or F. O, R, for plantation, and Rs. 42 per cwt. for native. The prices include the Commission of the purchasing Houses.

I represented to Mr. Kershaw that in order that all planters might benefit, it was necessary, that the purchasing should be carried out by several of the Coast Firms, each of which would protect its own clients, and this was accordingly stipulated for.

On the 19th April, the day that the business was concluded, I cabled to you as follows :—*viz.*, "Indian Government will buy through various Coast Firms 2,000 tons plantation and native coffee for Greece."

I think that this purchase will dispose of all the past Indian crop. Indeed I am not sure that so much is available.

I had a long conversation with the Greek officials about the quality of Indian coffee of which they knew nothing, Brazilian coffee having hitherto been used in Greece. Having acquired a taste for the coarse bitter Brazil bean I am doubtful whether they will properly appreciate the delicate rich flavour of the Indian, but I hope they will eventually take to the latter and require more.

Yours faithfully,

BROOKE MOCKETT.

The U. P. A. S. I. are much indebted to Mr. W. Grigson of the Food Control for his assistance in this matter.

8—6—1918.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Lake's query, perhaps I should have said "Most *of those* coffee planters *I have met*,"—as personally I only know of *one* coffee man, who is *perhaps* satisfied with the L. D., his group, has, I believe, more rubber than coffee.

I was at the Shevaroy P. A. Meeting referred to, and spoke in favour of an all-in cess provided we had guarantees and got as good as we gave and for that purpose I insisted, most emphatically, on representation, on *all* committees, to ensure fair treatment. This, I fear, will now be "side-tracked."

Re. " dragging in the rest of us " is this not just exactly what the sponsors of the Labour Department want to do ? The reason of course is obvious—they doubt sufficient support without *compulsion*.

If this is incorrect why does Mr. Lake (or anyone else) object to a " Subscribe-to-what-you-want " Programme ?

Yes, I am indeed glad that I stated my (lack of) mandate. Unfortunately there are all too few " fools " who " rush in " (to print) " where angels fear to tread " to save and safeguard our position and our industry (for there now seems to be *less* chance than ever of our receiving *adequate representation* without which taxes or cesses are *unfair* !)

As to my " Personal grievance against the L. D., my wit does not soar to such giddy flights as that of the company manager who " had a few words to say" about the Labour Department. No, really, I can assure Mr. Lake that I am not a crusty old fool with a bad digestion and a petty mind that leads to personal spite. My point is that with 3 separate associations, we could each of us attend to our own business. The Coffee Association assessed at Re. 1 " all-in" would probably find that 4 an. or so would cover the Local P. A. expenses and the Parent Association, and would have some 12 annas in hand per subscribing acre to spend on a full time coffee scientist (and surely we need one) and Mr. G. K. Martin's original " Coffee Markets Scheme" with its general Business Manager, and if need be, a central curing works for its subscribers (but these are details which are not my province). Certainly we could get more value for our money as a separate coffee association, and moreover we should have a better chance of adequate representation, and through this a better chance of saving our industry and our position as proprietors, for I take it roughly that 95% of tea men are company servants and hence, more or less organised, while about 95% of coffee men are small private owners " united by naught but divergence " at present, and liable, under the circumstances to be crushed out of existence by our better organised rivals.

To return to the Scheme—*To critics*, I would say: *Please* criticise, let us *find* the flaws and discuss them and put them right,—To SUPPORTERS, come on and help, as there is a hard fight ahead of us, and *to those who have not as yet formed any opinion*, I would beg them earnestly to consider the future and the tendencies of this re-organisation, and to ask themselves clearly whether coffee is getting a fair show in the proposals as set forth by the Control Committee, and whether they really consider that Proprietors interests will receive fair treatment in the Re-Organised U. P. A. S. I, if we agree to vest all power in the hands of the company men.

It is *not* that I have any particular quarrel with any company or company men— it is simply a business proposition that I am expounding, as I am terribly afraid that there is too much of the laissez faire attitude in a number of men who would fight splendidly if they could realise that the business vitally concerns themselves, their interests and their future welfare.

It rests with ourselves, Gentlemen, and I trust coffee planters and proprietors generally will cast aside their shyness and enter the fray. Let a real General come forward and win his spurs by deeds as well as words, and I shall be among the first to place my sword (figuratively) at his disposal,

We need a *Leader*, and with all due deference to our present spokesmen, a "Leader-Organiser" is what at present we most lack. Will no one come forward? Surely the situation demands the best we can give.

With reference to Mr. Martin's letter, let him keep his "charity" to himself while a definite challenge remains unanswered. Also let him explain *where* the coolies recruited from Salem district DO go and what percentage *are sent by the Department* to the Shevaroys.

Whilst admiring Mr. Martin's strategy, I deprecate his weapons (personalities and evasion)—I tried to avoid personalities in my original letter, wherein I attacked the Department and *its Director* in reply (be it noted) to the Director's attack on my District, referring to my plea for the abolition of advances.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. W. B. GOMPERTZ.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,

Block B—3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 12922—45 T. C.

From

LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,

Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller on behalf of London Controlled Companies.

Dated the 7th June, 1918.

Gentlemen, Sir,—Now that the basis on which the prices of teas supplied to the Food Controller under the old (1917) contract has been fixed, the question arises as to whether London Controlled Concerns propose to adjust in India or in England the differences between the temporary flat rates and the contract prices as finally fixed, and several firms have mentioned this matter to me. I understand that most firms propose that the adjustment should be made by their Home Houses direct with the Food Controller, and this certainly appears to be the most convenient course. Shippers are, however, entitled to adjust the difference here if they wish to do so, but this will probably entail delay, as I cannot pass their adjusting invoices until the Food Controller informs me of the rates which he has fixed for the teas of the different Home Controlled Companies. It would be convenient if shippers will kindly intimate to me what they propose to do in the matter, as I shall then cable to the Food Controller informing him

what Firms etc: will adjust the differences direct with him at home, and what firms will do so with me here. This will prevent confusion and obviate the danger of double drawals here and at home,

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 12946 T. C., dated the 7th June, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras, for favour of necessary action and report regarding Home Controlled Concerns in Southern India.

(Signed) R. MILLER,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 12964/71 T. C., dated the 7th June, 1918,

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
for Tea Commissioner for India.

W. DEANE,
"Beauvoir"
Kotagiri.
12th June 1918.

Further Extracts from the Letters of the son of an old Kotagiri Planter.

FLETCHER NORTON ESQIRE,
Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.
Bangalore.

Dear Norton, The extracts from my boy's letters from the W. Front, published in the P. C. seem so acceptable to you and the readers of the P. C. not only in evidence of the terrific character of the fighting but the splendid spirit pervading among our gallant men put against such fearful odds, that I send you some more received by the Mail just in.

Yours sincerely,
W. DEANE.

P. S.—With deep sorrow, I open this to say the following Telegram has just come in :—

Simla, 11—18—5 State.

"Regret following received from War Office Begins Lieut-Colonel "L. C. W. Deane, South Wales Borderers, Killed in Action May "28th Army Council Expresses Sympathy Ends—M. S. Chief,"

Extracts from the letters of the galiant Soldier whose death is regretfully rec rded and mourned. "His Sword is Rust His Soul is with the Saints we trust."

16—4—18. Just a few lines to say that I am all right. We were switched back into the big Boshe adva ce on the 10th and from then till yes'day we were fighting night and day- it was terrible—all in the open, and falling back all the way before frightful masses of Boshe.

The Colonel was badly wounded b machine gun fire day before yes'day and was carried away—I can get no n ws of him but the Doctor thinks he has a very small chance of living—I am broken hearted over it all. I took over command at once in the battle and am still commanding. Last night I withdrew my battalion from the battle for a "breather." I brought back 7 officers and eighty men—all that was left, we went in 800 strong. To-day great drafts have arrived so we will soon be up again and at it. I came through without a scratch. No time for more.....I am fagged out. Best love to you all .....

18—4—18. We are still in this battle and I am all right. We have had a devil of a time. I don't know if you got my last letter because the runner who took it back was wounded on his way. My Colonel was badly wounded some days ago by machine gun fire and I have been commanding since—I am still carring on as no one has been sent to take over from me. They can hardly make me into a Colonel, can they ! ! ! Well...don't worry about me. I am all right-my luck pulled me through the last show out of corners where no one else got—got out it is extraordinary. Cheerio.....Take care of yourselves—Tons of love.

22—4—18. Just a few lines to say.....that I have just got the D. S. O. I know you will be awfully pleased, and some how I am more glad for your dear selves than any thing else.....I got it for some wonderful stunts I am alleged to have performed in the open fighting!

I am still commanding and I believe I am to get the battalion. The General sent for me and was very decent. He seemed very pleased and said he hoped I would do great things with the battalion. Any how I am hoping that I will get it all right—my years are against me as a Lieut. Colonel but I think it is all right-rather amusing—What? The Colonel is down at the base and is doing pretty well which is good news. He took a machine gun bullet in the chest and one lung, poor old fellow—he was splendid.

Well.....we are withdrawn for a bit and I am now building up a new battalion—drafts of half trained boys are coming in—but I am going to make soldiers of them all right...make a battalion that will open people's eyes. No time for any thing so excuse more. Cheero all my love.

Confirmed as Lieut.-Colonel in command (6th S. W. Borderers) given the D. S. O. (will be 26 next September.)

Calicut, 12 June, 1918.

Cinchona Bark and Quinine.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

South Parade, Bangalore

Dear Sir,—We send you herewith copy of a very interesting Circular on the present position of Cinchona Bark and quinine issued by Messrs. Woodhouse and sent to us this mail by Messrs. Leslie and Anderson.

We get so many queries from planters as to the present position of the market for Cinchona Bark, that it might be of interest if you could see year way to publish this circular of Messrs. Woodhouse's in the *Planters' Chronicle*.

Unfortunately the opportunities of shipment of bark *at present* are very gloomy.

Yours faithfully,

Per pro Peirce Leslie & Co., Ld.

.....

Manager.

Bark.

We have the pleasure to hand you the following statistics of Cinchona Bark and Quinine.

IMPORTS, DELIVERIES AND STOCKS OF BARK IN LONDON.

	1918.	1917.	1916.
Imports 1st January to 31st March—	Packages.	Packages.	Packages.
South American	948	1,122	245
East India, Java, etc, ...	2,776	739	808
	3,724	1,861	1,053
Delivered 1st June to 31st March—			
South American	1,082	608	419
East India, Java, etc.	268	1,913	1,437
	1,350	2,521	1,856
STOCK 31ST MARCH.			
South American	3,979	2,087	1,434
East India, Java, etc.	5,549	3,092	2,161
	9,528	5,179	3,595

STOCK OF QUININE IN LONDON, 31ST MARCH.

	oz.	oz.	oz.
Total ounces	242,000	1,117,000	1,451,000

STATISTICS OF BARK IN U. K. (BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS).

	1917.	1916.	1915.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Imports 1st January to 31st December...	34,000	27,000	20,000
Exports do do ...	16,000	9,000	7,000
Left for Home consumption and stocks	18,000	18,000	13,000

STATISTICS OF QUININE IN U. K. (BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS)

	oz.	oz.	oz.
Imports 1st January to 31st December...	4,884,000	3,727,000	4,582,000
Exports British manufactured 1st January to 31st December ...	1,443,000	1,659,000	2,413,000
Exports Foreign manufactured ...	709,000	220,000	701,000

STATISTICS OF BARK IN HOLLAND (OFFICIAL).

	Amst. lbs.	Amst. lbs.	Amst. lbs.
Imports 1st January to 31st December.	4,320,000	14,866,000	11,112,000
Exports do. do. ...	8,024,000	12,410,000	9,324.000

The importations of bark from British East Indies have practically stopped for the last six months, owing to difficulty of getting freight, therefore the importations under the head of East India, Java, etc., in above statistics consist almost entirely of Java Bark, Under Government restrictions no steamers from Java are allowed to go to Holland direct, therefore the Bark and quinine shipped from Java come to the United Kingdom, and with Bark, after the requirements of British manufacturers are supplied. a portion of the balance is transhipped to Holland. Latterly, all arrivals of quinine from Java into the U. K. have been commandeered by the Government.

There have been few public sales of Bark in London during the last six months and the supplies offered have been almost entirely restricted to South American Calisaya descriptions. The value of the unit for Manufacturing Barks is 2½d. per lb. but usually Calisaya Bark is bought for export for Druggists abroad, at prices considerably above its value to Manufacturers. As the exportation of Bark is now prohibited by the Government the market for these barks is dull, importers not being willing to accept prices offered by Manufacturers.

In the statistics of Bark in Holland it will be seen how much the trade there has been restricted owing to the small importations.

Bright East India Succirubra Barks are very scarce and would command High prices compared to their value on analysis.

Up to about a month ago quotations for secondhand quinine on the spot were about 3/3d. to 3/5. . per oz. but latterly the Government have released a small quantity of Messrs. Howards and Sons, Ltd., quinine, which they are selling on the basis of about 2/6d. per oz. but only to their regular customers.

Yours truly,
(Signed) C. M. & C. WOODHOUSE,

30, Mincing Lane,
London, E. C. 3,
10th April, 1918.

Messrs. Leslie & Anderson,
14, Billiter Street, E. C.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 25.] JUNE 22, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish an article supplied by the Scientific Department on Bees and Pollination and Humus and Soil Fertility.

We publish the inaugural Proceedings of the Nilgiri-Wynaad Planters' Associations. It makes an auspicious start with 8,676 acres and a prospective 11,000 acres. We wish the new Association all success.

We also publish the proceedings of a meeting of the Wynaad Planters' Association.

It having been decided to close down the Analytical Department from the 20th July a note is published to that effect. Those who have sent in soils and fertilisers for analysis will understand there must be some delay, which we trust will be as short as possible, before they receive their reports.

Owing to the insufficient accommodation in Bangalore for military purposes, the Director of the Labour Department has had to give up his house to the General Commanding the Ninth Division. The Military have, however, found him another house at No. 4 Ulsoor Road.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, publishes a letter on the Pest and Diseases Act.

We direct attention to the letter from Mr. P. G. Tipping reminding readers of the Coffee Planters' Conference to be held in Mysore on the 1st and 2nd July.

Mr. Newcome writes on the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Honorary Secretary, Mundakayam Planters' Association, sends us the following communication:—"Capt. R. E. Gudgeon, R. F. A., late of Aneikulam Estate, Mundakayam, previously reported missing is now reported a prisoner."

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	70,990	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
Total Rs. ...	71,020	0	0

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I

Bees and Pollination.

Some years ago a good deal of interest was aroused by a discussion as to the part played by Bees in the pollination of Coffee and their effect upon the crops and it will be remembered that Mr. Bainbrigge Fletcher, the Government Entomologist, carried out an investigation upon the subject, the results of which were published in the *Chronicle*.

A Bulletin dealing with the same subject as it effects fruit trees has been published by the University of California and is reviewed in a recent issue of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*.

Expert opinion is divided on the subject of the importance of the honey bee as an agent of the pollination of fruit trees. No one of course denies that the honey bee does visit fruit blossoms and play a part in pollination, but the extent to which it makes any difference to the fruit crop is by no means a matter of general agreement.

Some experiments carried out by Mr. Hendrickson of California have thrown considerable light on the subject. He made a close and careful study of two varieties of plums and kept a record of the fruit set under ordinary orchard conditions, in orchards well supplied with hives, and also on trees the insect visits to which were controlled by enclosing them in insect proof mosquito netting, which enabled the experimenter in some cases to exclude all insects from the trees and in others to introduce under the netting hives of honey bees. These experiments were supplemented by tests on the effect, as measured by the crop, of installing hives in a number of private orchards.

The results of these experiments were a triumphant vindication of those who maintain that the honey bee is an active and important agent of pollination, and hence of fruit production,

In the case of the Imperial plum when all insects were excluded the percentage of fruit set to blossom formed was 0·34, *i.e.* about one in every 300 flowers set fruit. In the open orchard 7·2 per cent. of blossom produced fruit, while a tree of this variety enclosed with bees and a French tree under a mosquito net set 7·9, whereas when it was enclosed with bees alone and the French tree excluded it set only 3·02 per cent. Evidently this variety is in a measure self-sterile.

In the case of the Agen Plum the set under average orchard conditions with bees in the vicinity was 13·2 per cent; when all insects were excluded it fell to 0·43 per cent. For one tree enclosed with bees under netting it rose to 19 per cent. Here with a manifestly self fertile variety the effect of the bees on pollination is very evident indeed, amounting to one-third as much again as the set in the open. Similar results were obtained by introducing bees into orchards. In one case the owner found that his Jefferson Plum orchard which had never before borne fair crops produced a heavy crop when hives were installed in the orchard.

Humus and Soil Fertility.

The results of some experiments conducted in America to prove whether the humus content of the soil is a guide to its fertility are reported in *Soil Science*.

The results of the vegetation and humification tests seem to show that wherever there is rapid humification of manure the growth of the plant is greatly stimulated, indicating that the decay of organic matter is desirable in plant growth and not just its mere presence. This was especially noticeable when manures were rolled under and *limed* as compared with discing or mixing the manures uniformly with the soil. (*Agicultural News.*)

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Nilgiri-Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the inaugural Meeting held at the District Munsiff's Court, Gudalur, on Monday, 10th June, 1918, at 1 p.m.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. H. Wapshare, R. Fowke, S. C. O'Reilly, J. Aird, G. A. Rutter, K. West, Dr. P. J. Arjun Singh, F. W. F. Fletcher and A. F. Dalley.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Fletcher said:—"Gentlemen,—As I took the initial step in starting this Association, all the data collected are with me, and I have now to place them before you. The following Estates have definitely joined the Association:—

	Acres.
Devara Shola	569
Panchura	200
Kerra Shola	35
Rockwood	290
Woodbriar	294
Devon	170
Mango Range Group	1,166
Ouchterlony Valley	4,043
Barwood	284
Peria Shola	238
Rousdon Mullai	177
Glenvans	410
Seaforth	650
Bitherakadu	150
Making a total of acres...	8,676

"The Estates standing out are (1) Wentworth Group, (2) Mayfield Group, (3) Messrs. Fakir Muhammed's Group, (4) Nelliyalam, and (5) Balmadies."

(Here Mr. Fletcher gave a résumé of his correspondence with these Estates, in order that the meeting might know their reason for not having yet joined the Association). "If these properties come in, as I hope they will eventually, our cultivated area will go well over 11,000 acres.

"That, gentlemen, is the present position, and you will see that even if the total is not augmented, it is large enough to secure the success of the Association."

Mr. Fowke pointed out that no mention had been made of the Nirpuzha Rubber Company's Estates, which would add about a thousand acres to the total. Mr. Fletcher regretted that he had overlooked the fact that part of this Company's property was comprised in the Nilgiri-Wynaad, and said he would address the Manager at once.

RULES.—The adoption of a set of rules was then discussed, and it was resolved:—

That the Committee be requested to draw up a set of rules, to be submitted for approval to a Special General Meeting of the Association.

The following resolutions were discussed and passed:—

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.—That the annual subscription be fixed at 3 annas per cultivated acre per year.

DONATION.—That to cover cost of the non-recurring charges which will have to be met at the outset, each subscribing Estate do give a donation of Rs. 5.

OFFICE ALLOWANCE.—That the Honorary Secretary be granted from the funds of the Association an office allowance of Rs.12-8-0 per month with permission to make up the balance of a Writer's salary himself, and use the Writer for his own work, it being understood that this is done without detriment to the work of the Association.

TRANSFER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.—That in the case of Estates which belonged to other Associations before joining the Nilgiri-Wynaad Association and which have already paid the U. P. A. S. I. subscription of 2 annas per acre for current year, the Honorary Secretaries for the Associations concerned be requested to have such payments transferred to the credit of the Nilgiri-Wynaad Association, and the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be requested to make the necessary adjustment in his books.

(2) That the subscription of 2 annas per acre to the U. P. A. S. I. due from those Estates which have not already paid for the current year through other Associations, be at once collected and remitted to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I.

The following Office Bearers were elected:—

Chairman	...Mr. J. S. Nicolls.
Vice-Chairman	...Mr. J. Aird.
Committee	...Messrs. J. H. Wapshare, G. A. Rutter and R. Fowke.
Honorary Secretary	...Mr. F. W. F. Fletcher.

With votes of thanks to Mr. Fletcher for having taken the preliminary steps in the inauguration of the Association, and to the District Munsiff for the use of his Court-room, the meeting terminated.

(Signed) J. AIRD,
Vice-Chairman.
(„) F. W. F. FLETCHER,
Honorary Secretary.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Meeting held at the Meppadi Club, on June 12th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Bisset, Cheeseman, Craig, Eyre, Gillatt, Gwynne, Lobban, Malcolm, Nicolls, Powell and Abbott (Honorary Secretary).

MR. NICOLLS IN THE CHAIR.

PROCEEDINGS OF LAST MEETING.—These were confirmed.

2380. WYNAAD PLANTERS IN THE ARMY.—The Meeting heard with satisfaction that Mr. Bownass had received the Military Cross, and regretted that Mr. Dobree M. C. had been wounded for the second time. No further news had been received by Mr. Dobree's friends.

2381. LIQUOR SHOPS.—Read letter from Mr. Hall I. C. S. stating that the Chundale shop would be closed now. Recorded with thanks.

2382. PLANTERS AND POLICE.—The Meeting considered that this matter can rest until Mr. Evan's report is received.

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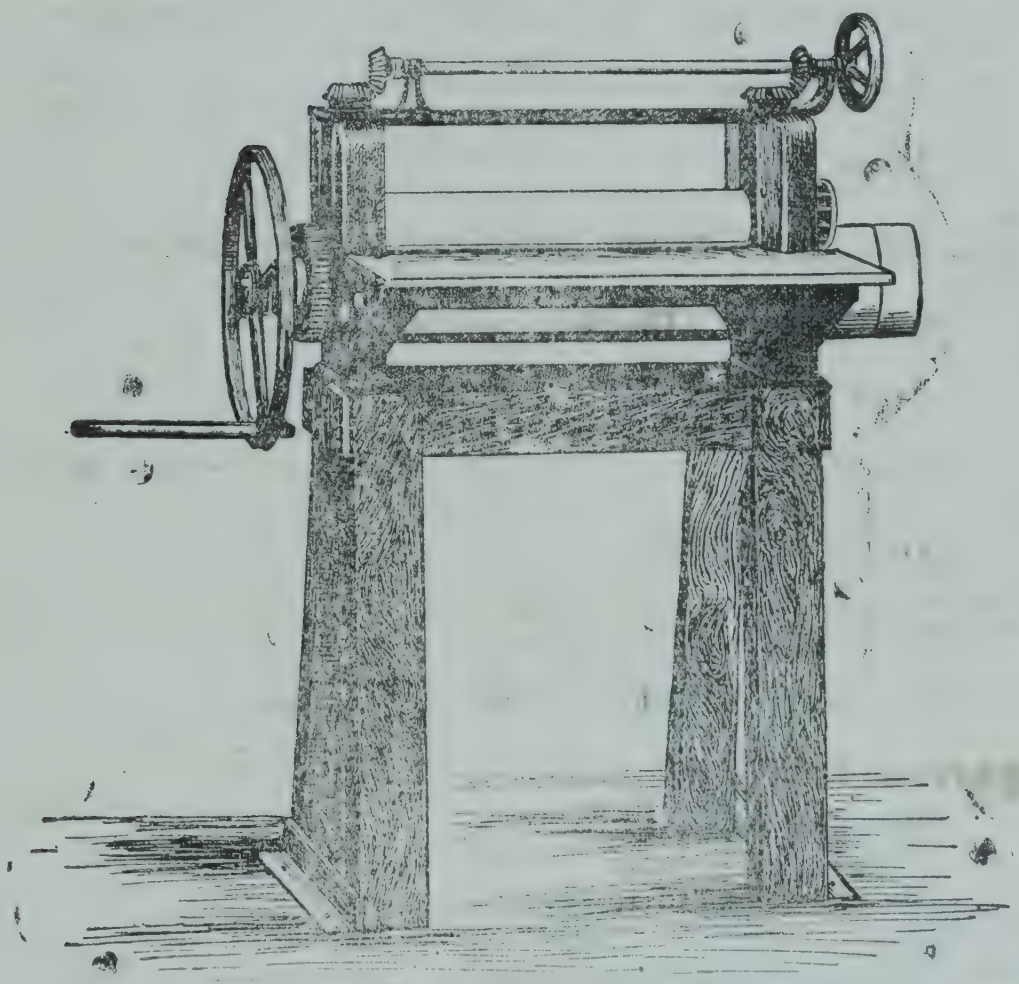

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Calicut, Alleppey, Kottayam and Trivandrum.

2383. PROFITEERING.—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to the Deputy Collector of Wynaad and his reply. Noted. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to address the Collector of Malabar and to point out that the increased price of grain and other articles is already serious and is certain to become more so. The Association hopes that Government will do what is possible in the matter.

2384. INCOME TAX ON TEA FACTORIES.—Read correspondence. It was stated that the Chairman U. P. A. S. I. had appointed a small committee consisting of Messrs. Eyre, Malcolm and Abbott to consider the subject in consultation with the Indian Tea Association. The Meeting considered that the Committee should forward all correspondence that came into their hands to the Indian Tea Association if likely to be of use. It agreed with the Honorary Secretary's letter to the Collector of Income Tax Malabar and thought it would be advisable to await the reply of the Government of India to the protest of the Indian Tea Association before taking further action.

2385. RE-ORGANISATION OF U. P. A. S. I.—Read circular letter from Chairman, U.P.A.S.I. Proposed by Mr. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Gwynne and carried unanimously (1) that this Association is of opinion that an all-in cess is the only method on which the business of the Association could be conducted if the proposed scheme is carried through.

(2) That British Firms controlling interests in planting should be admitted as members of the U. P. A. S. I. with full powers.

2386. ANNUAL MEETING U. P. A. S. I.—Mr. Abbott was elected Delegate and his expenses were voted.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) J. S. NICOLLS,
Chairman.
(„) C. E. ABBOTT,
Honorary Secretary.

The Analytical Department, U. P. A. S. I.

Owing to a series of mistakes which have been made in analyses during the past six months by the Assistant Chemist and to the fact that the manifold duties of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, which take him away from head-quarters for long periods at a time he is unable to check and supervise the work in the laboratory, it has been decided to temporarily close down the Analytical Department from the 20th July.

The Deputy Director has made certain proposals to the Director of Agriculture for placing this work on a better footing and ensuring its future accuracy placing it directly under the control of the Madras Agricultural Department. It is hoped that these proposals will be accepted and that the Scientific Department of the U. P. A. S. I. will shortly be able to resume analytical work for planters.

In the meantime until the new arrangements are made no more samples can be accepted for analysis.

Those who have already soil samples awaiting analysis are informed that there must necessarily be some delay before they can receive these analyses but it is hoped that this delay will not be a long one and that analyses and reports may be issued in due course.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Labour Department.

Bangalore,
19th June, 1918.

Notice is hereby given that the residence and office of the Director on and after 1st July, 1918, will be No. 4 Ulsoor Road Bangalore. Correspondence should be addressed accordingly. Telegrams "Upasi" Bangalore as heretofore.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

The Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act.

By order of the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I, the following correspondence is published:—

Daverashola Estate,
Devarshola, P. O.,
Nilgiris, 27th May, 1918.

To THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,
Planting Districts,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—You will have seen the Test of the proposed bill in the Gazette. I shall be obliged if you will let me have your views. I enclose copy of my letter to our Planting Member.

I am,
Dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sd.) J. S. NICOLLS,
Chairman, U.P.A.S.I.

No. 574/1918. Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts Division,
Bangalore, 30th May, 1918.

From R. D. ANSTEAD, ESQ., M.A.,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts Division.

To J. S. NICOLLS, ESQ.,
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.,
Devarshola.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter dated 27th May, enclosing a copy of your letter of the same date to the Planting Member of Council.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that the draft of this Act was submitted to the U. P. A. S. I. by the Secretary to the Madras Government, and was issued by the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. in Circular No. 15 dated 4th December, 1915, for criticism and suggestions, additions or commendations.

In reply to that Circular I had the honour to address a letter to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I., No. 1195 dated 15th December, 1915, making certain suggestions. This letter was printed and issued as a a Circular.

Later a list of the Resolutions passed by District Associations on the Act was compiled by the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., and I presume circulated,

as there is a copy on my file. In his Annual Report presented at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. 1916, the Secretary said, "The Pest Act has been accepted by the Association and it is to be hoped that Government will accept the suggestions made by the Associations."

The Act has had my very close attention and it appears to me to be a good one. On 9th February 1917 I had the honour of serving on a Special Committee at Pusa to discuss the Agrticultural Adviser to the Government of India and the Madras delegates on that Committee were able to put forward arguments to successfully uphold their views as to the necessity for such an Act and convince the Government of India for its utility.

In my opinion the Planting interests are amply guarded. In Part II Clause 3 of this Act it is laid down that the provisions of the Act do not come into force until the Governor-in-Council declares that any particular pest or disease comes under the Act and at the same time prescribes what preventive measures shall be adopted and defines the local area in which the Act shall come into force. We have the promise of the Director of Agriculture that before that is done in a planting district the Government would consult the U. P. A. S. I. and their Scientific Advisers.

In conclusion I have the honour to append the following list of references to the subject which will be found in the publications of the U. P. A. S. I.:—

Planters' Chronicle.—

IV. p. 215. Pest Act suggested by the Nilgiri P. A.
p. 260. do proposed by do
V. p. 497. Note on subject of Pest Acts.
p. 504. Correspondence re. do
p. 519. Coorg P. A. ask for Pest Act.
p. 525. North Mysore P. A. do
VI. p. 535. Note on in Mr. Anstead's Annual Report.
p. 530, do by Chairman, U. P. A.
p. 625. Proposed Legislation in U. S. A.
p. 680. Text of America Bill.
p. 781. Comments on by Nature.
VII. pp. 519, 544, 567, 687, 698. Papers on subject by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.
VIII. p. 270. Mysore Planters ask for a Local Act.
p. 479. India Bill.
XI. p. 534. Pest Act in Ceylon.
p. 634. Mysore Pest Act.
XII. p. 500. do.
p. 582, Destruction Insects and Pests Act.
XIII. p. 63. do.

Book of Proceedings—

1909. p. 32. First proposed by U. P. A. S. I.
1913. Discussion on Local Pest Act.
1914. p. 32. Local Pest Acts asked for and supported by D. Colemen.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) RUDOLF D. ANSTEAD,
Dy. Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

Fairlands, Sidapur,
18th June 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Coffee Planters' Conference.

Dear Sir,—Representatives from five affiliated Associations have intimated their intention of being present at the Meeting in Mysore,

Mr. J. S. Nicolls and Sir Fairless Barber will also be there, and the former has kindly consented to preside. It is hoped that every affiliated Association will be represented.

In compliance with suggestions received alterations have been made in the agenda as follows:—

1st July, 10 a. m. Re-organisation of U. P. A. S. I. 2 p. m. Coffee selling scheme, future of E. I. Coffee in non European markets.

2nd July, 10 a. m. Seed selection. Improvements of type, cultivation and general discussion. 2 p. m. Re-organisation U. P. A. S. I. Chairman's closing speech.

I am dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
PERCY G. TIPPING,
For Coffee Committee.

Cowcoody, Somwarpet,
N. Coorg, June, 12, 1918.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,

Dear Sir,—As we are not to be favoured with the visit of the Travelling Commissioners, might I be allowed to ask a few questions in turn?

1. Under the new scheme, is there to be a section or Committee of the U. P. A. S. I., as such, to look after coffee interests?

2. Would there be anyone, for instance, to take note of and act on the fact (v Madras Mail) that a regular service of Japanese steamers is about to run from Bombay to Italy?

3. In the event of Mr. Martin's scheme materialising would coffee planters have to find the money for it, as well as their subscriptions to U. P. and local association?

4. If so, why?

5. Do you not think that what is still the largest planting industry in S. India and the founder of the U.P.A. should have some portion of its funds allotted to a scheme vital, not to its prosperity but to its existence?

Like Rose Dartle, I only want to know.

"Coffee's" letter is much to the point. Some coffee planters have no use for Labour Commissioners, and very little for Scientific Officers, but would and should, join any equitable scheme, if only for the sake of peace and quietness.

Mr. Newby's remarks, though officially repudiated by the U. P., still leave a nasty taste in the mouth.

Yours faithfully,
L. NEWCOME.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 26.] JUNE 29, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the Proceedings of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association, the most important feature of which was that the meeting decided to abide by the verdict of the majority regarding the re-organisation scheme at the Annual Meeting.

We publish again the notice of the closing down of the Analytical Department of the U. P. A. S. I. on its present lines, to ensure if possible the bringing of this fact to those who may have sent in soils and fertilisers for analysis, and to account for any delay that may have arisen, or may arise, in receiving reports.

In our Correspondence columns will be found a letter from the Controller of Munitions, Madras, regarding pruning knives.

Mr. Waddington very clearly corrects some errors into which Mr. Gompertz has inadvertently fallen both about coolies from the Salem District and the abolition of advances.

The remainder of this week's issue is taken up with the communications from the Indian Tea Commissioner.

On July 1st and 2nd a Conference of Coffee Planters will be held in Mysore, which we hope will in every way be as interesting as that of the Rubber Planters at Cochin and was well attended.

The Honorary Secretaries of District Associations are reminded that original propositions to be moved at the Annual Meeting should reach the Secretary as soon as possible to admit of their being circulated, and that it will be advisable to book rooms well in advance at the Madras Hotels for their delegates.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	71,020	0	0
Messrs, Barber & Pascoe	75	0	0
Total Rs....	71,095	0	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Nilgiri Planters' Association.

Proceedings of an Extraordinary General Meeting held at the Collector's Court, Ootacamund, at 11-30 a.m., on Tuesday, the 11th June, 1918.

PRESENT.—Mr. A. S. Dandison (Chairman), Mr. L. A. Gerrard Rogers (Vice-Chairman), Mr. J. B. Leslie-Rogers (Honorary Secretary), Sir Fairless Barber, Mr. J. Harding Pascoe, Mr. N. Grey, Mr. R. Fowke, Mr. G. F. Weston Elwes, Mr. J. E. Bisset, Mr. A. G. Nicholson, Mr. L. F. Lake, Mr. Rhodes James, Mr. A. K. W. Downing, Mr. George Oakes, Mr. P. L. D. Beaver, Mr. E. F. H. Gerrard.

By proxy.—Messrs. James Stanes, N. J. Stanes, and R. Bake.

Visitors.—Mr. A. Cumming, I.C.S., Collector, Nilgiri District, Lieut. C. B. Jones, Army Recruiting Officer, III Circle, Mr. J. Welsh, Mr. H. Waddington, Mr. C. E. Abbott, Mr. J. A. Richardson, Mr. J. Mackie.

Before opening the Meeting the Chairman in a feeling speech announced the sad death of Mr. Rawson, who was accidently drowned while bathing in the Pykara river. He was an assistant on the Adderly Estate, and a young planter of great promise, with many sincere friends, who mourn his untimely loss. A vote of condolence was passed, and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to convey to his parents the deep sympathy of the members of the Association, in their sad bereavement.

(1) GOVERNMENT RECRUITING OF LABOUR IN THE NILGIRIS.—Lt. C. E. Jones, Army Recruiting Officer addressed the meeting on this subject, and clearly explained the scope of his operations, stating that he had every wish to meet the Planters in the matter; and invited their co-operation so as to avoid as far as possible any difficulties regarding labour employed on the Estates.

He promised to inform the Association as to the dates on which he would visit the Nilgiris in the course of his duties in the District, and said he would on these occasions be pleased to meet any planter who wished to consult him in the matter. After some discussion he was thanked for his sympathetic and explanatory statement, and it was resolved to afford every help to Government in the recruitment of labour, as far as it was possible to do so without impairing the necessary requirements of the planting Industry.

(2) CALL FOR PLANTERS ON THE INDIAN MUNITION BOARD.—Circulars on this subject had already been distributed among the members. In reply to an enquiry by the Honorary Secretary, the Controller of Munitions stated that, "There was no fixed salary; the salary in each case will depend upon the merits of the case, and anyone who is willing to apply for employment under the Munition Board will be sent an application form, in which he will be required to state what salary he requires." The Meeting was of opinion that, while there was every wish to help Government at this juncture, the Association could not take any direct action in the matter, but would leave the decision to individual members, believing that those who were able to do so, would heartily respond to the call.

(3) RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—A circular letter signed by several planters was read by the Chairman, and the meeting then discussed the following points:—

(*a*) Whether there should be separate cesses for each of the departments of the Association, or one inclusive subscription covering all?

The decision was in favour of an inclusive subscription.

(*b*) Whether the amounts suggested by Control Committee were suitable for the purpose?

The figures quoted by the Control Committee were approved of.

(*c*) Where should the future head quarters be located?

The votes were in favour of Coimbatore as the most suitable place.

(*d*) Constitution of membership. It was decided to leave this question for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

(*e*) Constitution of Committees. The Control Committees' proposals were accepted, *viz.*, that there should be an Executive Committee and a General Committee.

(*f*) Majority verdict. The meeting agreed to accept and support the verdict of the majority regarding re-organisation scheme.

(4) Regarding Mr. Leslie-Rogers' statement in the *Madras Mail* of the 5th instant, *viz.*, that the Labour Department "has also appointed one of its own staff as the future General Secretary."

Under the question of the U. P. A. S. I. re-organisation scheme, Sir Fairless Barber referred to the above letter and several speakers, including the Chairman, who were present at the Cochin Meeting supported him in his protest against Mr. Leslie-Rogers' statement that Mr. Waddington had been offered by the Control Committee the Secretaryship of the proposed re-organised Association and that he had accepted it.

Mr. Leslie-Rogers on the other hand stated that he heard, (and had written down the words at the moment as uttered) Mr. Meade say at the Cochin open meeting. "I am glad to be able to tell you that the appointment of Secretary has been offered to Mr. Waddington, and we all hope he will accept it."

After some discussion the matter was dropped as serving no useful purpose. All those present to-day who were at the Cochin Meeting, holding one opinion, and Mr. Leslie-Rogers holding another.

(5) The Association's Delegates to the U. P. A. S. I. Annual General Meeting 1918.

Messrs. A. S. Dandison, A. K. N. Downing, and L. A. Gerrard Rogers, were elected to represent the Association on the occasion.

(6) THE QUESTION OF INCOME TAX ON TEA.—It was resolved to support the Indian Tea Association in this matter, and the following resolution was proposed by Sir Fairless Barber, and seconded by Mr. J. B. Leslie-Rogers, and carried unanimously:—"That this Association do sup-

port the action of the Indian Tea Association in its protest against the Income Tax Act VII of 1918 being applied to tea and other planting products; and especially approve of the remarks of the Indian Tea Association on the manner in which this tax was imposed."

(7) THE WAR LOAN.—A letter on the subject from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor was read, and the Chairman then addressed the meeting, strongly urging the planting community to support the Loan to the utmost of their ability. A fair sum was promised on the spot, and further contributions are expected as soon as individual members had the necessary information before them.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. A. R. Cumming for kindly placing the Court Rooms at the disposal of the Association.

(Signed) A. S. DANDISON,
Chairman.

(Signed) J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS,
Honorary Secretary.

The Analytical Department, U. P. A. S. I.

Owing to a series of mistakes which have been made in analyses during the past six months by the Assistant Chemist and to the fact that the manifold duties of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, which take him away from head-quarters for long periods at a time he is unable to check and supervise the work in the laboratory, it has been decided to temporarily close down the Analytical Department from the 20th July.

The Deputy Director has made certain proposals to the Director of Agriculture for placing this work on a better footing and ensuring its future accuracy placing it directly under the control of the Madras Agricultural Department. It is hoped that these proposals will be accepted and that the Scientific Department of the U. P. A. S. I. will shortly be able to resume analytical work for planters.

In the meantime until the new arrangements are made no more samples can be accepted for analysis.

Those who have already soil samples awaiting analysis are informed that there must necessarily be some delay before they can receive these analyses but it is hoped that this delay will not be a long one and that analyses and reports may be issued in due course.

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QUILON, S. INDIA.

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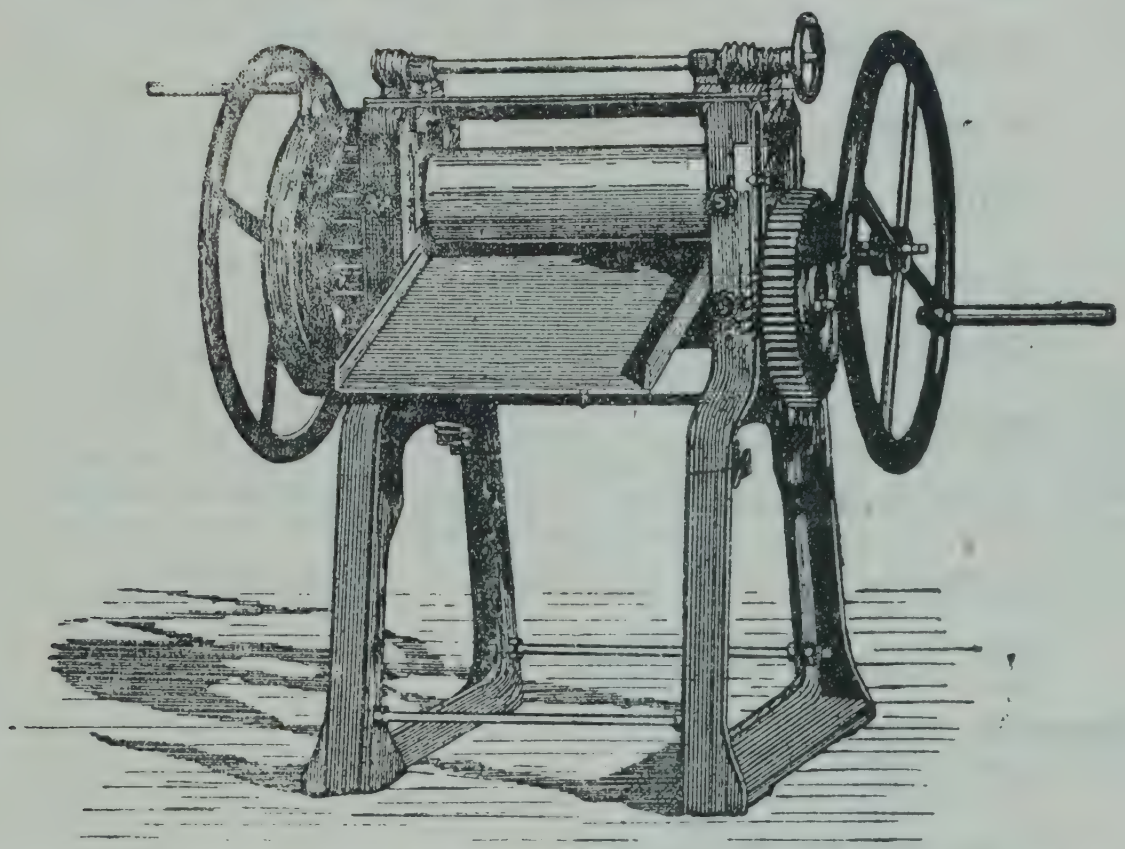

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CORRESPONDENCE.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

Indian Munition Board,

Office of the Controller of Munitions,

Madras, 19th June, 1918.

Priority.

From

C. A. INNES, ESQ., I. C. S.,
Controller of Munitions,
Madras Circle.

To

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association, South India,
Bangalore.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter R. O. C. No. M. 871 dated 17—6—18 I have the honour to inform you that the Priority Committee is advised that pruning knives of satisfactory quality are now being made in considerable numbers in India. In the circumstances the Committee will not ordinarily support applications for assistance in obtaining these knives. Information as to sources of supply can be obtained from the undersigned.

2. I should be greatly obliged if you would publish this letter in the *Planters' Chronicle.*

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
C. A. INNES.
Controller of Munitions.

Labour Department.
Deputy Director's Office,
Coimbatore, S. India,
24th June, 1918.

Labour.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

COOLIES FROM THE SALEM DISTRICT.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Martin having answered Mr. Gompertz's insinuations that coolies, previously employed on the Shevaroys, have been induced to go to the High Range; Mr. Gompertz now asks another question, calling

upon him to explain where the coolies, from the Salem District, do go? As Salem is in my Division of the Labour Department Mr. Martin has asked me to find the answer.

In addition to the coolies who go to the Shevaroys, some from the Salem District go for work on estates in Nilgiris, Anamalais and High Range, but less, I think, than went 7 or 8 years ago. Recently a considerable number have gone to the Straits and F. M. S. But the decrease in number of coolies from Salem found now on estates, is, I believe, due to coolies remaining in their country and finding work in cotton and ground nut cultivation, and when there is nothing doing as regards these products finding work at the Magnesite Works near Salem, where they can earn considerably higher wages than is possible on the estates in the Shevaroys.

As coolies are not collected at Depots by this Department on their way to estates, there is no means of obtaining the number sent up to estates, I am unable therefore to say what the percentage is, and as the census was taken in April, when estate population is at its lowest, the figures given therein are not of practical use.

With reference to Mr. Gompertz's plea for abolition of advances, he wrote under date 14-1-18. "It will have to come to 'Abolition of Advances' sooner or later, and if the Straits can do it, why can't we." There seems to be an initial error and misunderstanding in this statement.

I understand that recruiters for the Straits and F. M. S. are allowed Rs. 12 per head for each recruit delivered at port of shipment. The present contract rate for passage of these coolies to Penang, Port Swettenham and Singapore averages Rs. 15 per head. The cost of detention account quarantine at Penang and Port Swettenham averages 2 17 Dollars. What the cost of feeding coolies between the time they arrive at port of embarkation and actual shipment is, I am unable to find, but note a remark in report on Labour Recruitment for 1918 as to the "Heavy expenses to the fund in feeding coolies shut out from the steamer at Avadi." Then there is the expense of moving the cooly from port of dis-embarkation to the estates. The advances made account coolies going to the Straits would therefore seem to be over Rs. 30, possibly nearer Rs. 40 per head. It is not advances that the Straits abolished, but the *Recovery* of advances which does not seem to me the same thing.

Yours faithfully,
H. WADDINGTON,
Deputy Director, Labour Department.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 13718/60 T. C.

From

LT.-COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C. I. E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India,

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the United Kingdom.

Dated the 17th June, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 12293/12335 T. C., dated the 30th May 1918, I have the honour to reproduce for your information and guidance the following correspondence between myself and the Food Controller regarding the percentage of each grade of tea in each invoice supplied under the new (1918) contract :—

Cable No. 267 dated the 29th May 1918 from the ***Tea Commissioner to the Food Controller:—***

"Generally whole garden invoice shipped. So it would be impracticable to sort out sixty-six per cent. of each grade of each invoice, as accommodation insufficient and confusion would be enormous. Suggest that shippers should be instructed that each invoice must contain as far as possible usual percentage of all grades and that correct percentage of manufacture must be adjusted before expiry of contract. Assortment being as nearly as possible that of 1917. It is essential to have some definite standard to work on to ensure that manufacture does not deteriorate. Practically all Northern India 1917 teas manufactured and packed before purchase scheme arranged, so this can be accepted as ordinary standard."

Cable No. 83 dated the 14th June, 1918 from the Food Controller to the ***Tea Commissioner.***

"Your 267 London Controlled garden weights need only be checked occasionally, otherwise agree all your 267 subject to quality supplied being fair average of quality throughout season including croppy and autumnal teas."

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,

Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 13761/63 T. C., dated the 17th June, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,

For Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 13799-13841 T.C.

From

LT.-COL, W. M. KENNEDY, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates
shipping tea to the United Kingdom.

Dated the 18th June, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—A certain firm having asked permission to adjust in India the difference between the flat and contract rates of the teas of their Indian Controlled Concerns which were shipped privately between the 1st November and the 15th December 1917, and taken over by the Food Controller on arrival in England, I asked the Food Controller for instructions as to whether I might pass the bill for payment here. He has replied that the final adjustments between the flat and contract rates should be made where the original (flat rate) payment was made, and that, accordingly, the firm in question should adjust the difference in England direct with him. I have, therefore, the honour to request that in all cases where payment at the flat rate has been taken in England, arrangements may be made to adjust the difference between the flat and contract rates there, in direct communication with the Food Controller.

2. In the cases where the value of private shipments of Indian Controlled Concerns between the 1st November and 15th December, 1917 has been erroneously drawn both here and in England, it would be well either to arrange to make the adjustments between the flat and contract rates in London, or to wait till the Food Controller decides on which side the refund is to be made.

3. In reply to my circular letter No. 12922-45 T. C., dated the 7th instant, a number of firms, who have drawn here for the value of teas shipped direct to the Food Controller by their London Controlled Concerns, have intimated to me their intention to adjust in England the difference between the flat and contract rates, I do not anticipate that the Food Controllor will raise any objection to this arrangement, and as soon as all the replies to my circular letter have been received, I shall cable to the Food Controller, informing him what firms will make the adjustment direct with him, and what firms will do so here.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 13842/50 T. C., dated the 18th June, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 27.] JULY 6, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the proceedings of the Coffee Planters' Conference held at Mysore on 1st and 2nd July, as they were sent to us. A much fuller report will be found in the *Madras Mail* of the 4th and 5th of this month. The Meeting was well attended, interesting and useful work was accomplished.

An interesting article is reproduced from the British Trade Journal on the Discrimination in Control.

Some notes on Coffee by Dr. De Carvalho on Coffee Planting for profit are taken from *Tropical Life*.

The Indian Tea Commissioner has kindly forwarded us a copy of a telegram that passed between himself and the Food Controller.

The Director of the Labour Department publishes a notice that cheques etc., should be made out to any officer of his Department by his designation and not by name.

The General Secretary, the British Empire Producers' Organisation has sent us a Circular letter which has been sent to all Industrial Associations, which we have much pleasure in giving further circulation to.

We trust that the circular lately addressed to Honorary Secretaries of Coffee District Associations will receive immediate attention and that such reliable estimates of the coming coffee crop will be furnished to send to Mr. Brooke Mockett who is already in communication with the Government at Home about the disposal of it.

In connection with the purchase of 2,000 tons by the Greek Government the Collector of Customs, Madras, writes us as follows:—

"I am making urgent arrangements for railing at Government expense the coffee shut out by the S. S. Bahadauri for shipment from Madras."

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	71,095	0	0
Mr. A. J. Wright, Munnar	20	0	0
Mr. E. H. Francis (Gymkhana winnings) ...	14	0	0
Mr. Campbell Hunt	30	0	0
Total Rs....	71,159	0	0

COFFEE PLANTERS' CONFERENCE.

Coffee Planters' Conference, held at Mysore, on 1st and 2nd July, 1918.

THE CONFERENCE OPENED ON 1ST JULY, AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT:—Mr. J. S. Nicolls, Chairman, Sir Fairless Barber, Messrs. C. Lake, F. M. Hamilton, G. A. Marsh, C. Congreve, E. L. Mahon, H. Kerr, A. C. W. Denne, F. Macrae, N. M. Scholfield, W. A. F. Bracken, J. Crawford, W. R. Wright, A. J. Wright, A. F. Magniac, S. C. Wilson, G. K. Martin, E. R. Rutherford, J. Hume, G. K. Pearse, R. C. Morris, A. E. C. Morris, C. H. Godfrey, and Capt. Maurice, P. G. Tipping, (Acting Honorary Secretary).

After the meeting had been opened by the Chairman, and those assembled welcomed by Mr. Tipping the Acting Secretary, who emphasised the point that opinions expressed at the Conference were unofficial and not binding on any district association, the first subject taken up was the U. P. A. S. I. Re-Organisation Scheme which was thrown open to discussion, leaving the final arguments and resolutions to the 2nd day.

The Chairman said that every one had no doubt read the two Schemes which so far have been put forward, one by the Control Committee, and the other by the Mundakayam Planters' Association. The two schemes were similar in all points except one, namely, the choice between an all-in or a separate cess. He thought that the "all in" cess was the only thing which would keep the Association together, and he hoped, that whatever decisions were come to at the Conference, members would remember that although their individual views might not be quite similar in 1893, when the U. P. A. S. I. was inaugurated, "UNITY" was the word in everybody's mouth.

MR. LAKE opened the debate with the suggestion that there should be an "all in" cess, and this should be on a Rs. 1/5 basis for the three main products, Coffee, Tea and Rubber, which would not materially alter financially the estimates drawn up by the Control Committee. The chief argument in favour of this suggestion was that it placed all three products on the same basis, and removed possible future causes of contention.

The Control Committee are asking Coffee Planters to pay a cess of one rupee per acre as against Rs. 1/8 for tea, and Rs. 1/4 for Rubber, and voting was to be on a subscription basis; that would mean that the voting power of coffee would remain as it is now, whereas that of the tea would be enhanced 50% and that of rubber 25%. Coffee Planters, he thought, could not agree to this, as there were some who already thought that Coffee was not holding its own in U. P. A. S. I. matters.

MR. P. G. TIPPING in supporting Mr. Lake said that the main issue was whether they had subscriptions on an "all in" basis, or divided up in separate departments and subscriptions, as at present. He went on to show that any one of the Departments efficiently run, was worth the amount that men are likely to be called on to subscribe and thought they could not do better than support an "all in" subscription, which would be less than they are now paying for one of the departments alone. That if they agreed to this, the lesser issues regarding amount of the subscription, period of guarantee, location of head-quarters, etc., could be threshed out on their merits.

MR. WRIGHT supported the "all in" cess and said his Association insisted on this, so that members should know just where they were.

As to a Secretary for both posts—a capable man would do all that was needed and have time to visit branches, leaving his Assistant to continue the work in the office without dislocation.

MR. MACRAE thought the Office of Director of the Labour Department and Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. should not be vested in the same person, as he could not efficiently carry out the duties of both offices. This led to considerable discussion and an explanation of the reasons for the proposed change, the chief of which was the necessity for economy.

MR. GODFREY wished to know on what basis the voting would be at the Executive and General Committee Meetings of the proposed altered constitution of the U. P. A. S. I.

THE CHAIRMAN having replied that the Executive Committee had a personal vote and the General Committee a subscription vote, Mr. Godfrey said that in that case he thought the Planting Member should not have a vote on the Executive Committee, which would be of equal value to that of a member representing a whole industry. In this opinion he was supported by Mr. Lake.

This matter was left over for further discussion on the following day.

Other subjects which were brought forward were also discussed and left over.

On resuming the Conference at 2 p.m.

MR. MARTIN explained his coffee selling scheme which had already appeared in the *Planters' Chronicle*.

MR. TIPPING explained the reasons which led to a Committee considering the scheme impracticable, as outlined in the *Planters' Chronicle*, and a long discussion followed on the various suggestions for carrying through a more practicable scheme. This discussion resulted in a general desire that Government should again be approached in the matter of levying a cess on exported coffee to be spent on advertising and pushing coffee sales.

RESPECTING EXPORTATION TO AUSTRALIA.—Mr. Lake in view of late information received, that Indian coffee was preferred to Java coffee, which he understood was at present flooding the country, proposed that Government be again approached through the U. P. A. S. I. on the subject of the prohibition of import of foreign grown coffees to Australia.

The subject of *Seed selection* was then taken up and was introduced by Mr. Anstead whose speech will be reproduced in the full report of the Proceedings.

Second Day's Proceedings.

MR. ANSTEAD delivered a most interesting lecture on the subject of coffee soils and manures, a full report of which will appear in due course.

The subject of the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. was again taken up.

MR. CONGREVE suggested that as coffee, cardamoms and cinchona required far less labour than tea, and as rubber asked particularly for a Mycologist, it was not reasonable for them to pay the same subscription as those other products, and therefore that voting in the U. P. A. S. I. ought to be on an acreage basis which would place all products on an equal footing whatever their subscription might be.

SIR FAIRLESS BARBER in speaking to Mr. Lake's resolution suggested leaving this matter to the U. P. A. as it had received full consideration from every point of view at the Control Committee Meeting. Mr. Lake regretted he could not bring forward such a resolution without instruction from his Association. Mr. Tipping pointed out that in seconding this at this Conference he merely wished to invite discussion, upon which Sir Fairless

Barber hoped the proposal would receive unanimous support for he thought the example was a good one.

Mr. Lake's resolution was then put as follows :—

"That this Conference supports the scheme of re-organisation proposed by the Control Committee and suggests that an all round subscription of Rs. 1/5 per acre be adopted for Tea, Rubber and Coffee."

This was carried unanimously.

The subject of the Planting Member having a vote on the Executive Committee was then thoroughly discussed, and on being put to the vote it was found there was an equality of votes—for and against.

The next subject taken up was the desirability of including Mercantile Firms in the U. P. A. S. I.

MR. GODFREY asked for a definite illustration of the advantage mutual to all three industries to be gained by the inclusion of Business Firms, *i.e.*, middlemen, in a Body formed to forward the interests of Planters, *i.e.*, Producers.

MR. CONGREVE asked what harm the inclusion of Firms with one personal vote could possibly do to the Association. He considered that they could afford us much valuable help and advice, while a controlling vote would always lie in the hands of the planting body. Mr. Tipping agreed with Mr. Congreve while the Chairman pointed out that apparently a considerable majority of planters favoured including Firms.

MR. WRIGHT asked whether members of the Conference thought it was desirable for District Associations to be incorporated.

THE CHAIRMAN said that though in his personal opinion Incorporation was desirable he considered it out of place for the U. P. A. S. I. to advise and the matter was dropped.

MR. GODFREY informed the Conference that the Forms of Forward Coffee Sales Contract were completed and now available to those who wished to make use of them, and Mr. Tipping proposed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Godfrey, Mahon, and Congreve for the trouble they had taken in the matter.

MR. WRIGHT said his Committee had asked him to get Coorg Bazaar prices and refer the matter of unduly high rates to the Commissioner. He wished to ask the Conference what other Associations were doing in the matter.

MR. RUTHERFORD said the Mysore Government had already appointed a Controller who was already taking action in this matter.

THE CHAIRMAN in his closing speech said that during the past two days a lot of useful work had been done, which he felt sure would go far towards facilitating the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. Some people thought the abnormal amount of work falling upon the Executive would diminish after the war, but that in his opinion was not likely to be the case, and the work must of necessity go on increasing with the expanding activities of the U. P. A. S. I. He quoted from Mr. Brett's speech at the inauguration of the U. P. A. S. I. pleading for unity of action, and he congratulated the Conference on passing a resolution in favour of an "all in" subscription.

Votes of thanks to Mr. R. H. Campbell, Private Secretary to H. H. the Maharaja for so kindly placing the Guest House at the disposal of the Conference and making the arrangements which rendered the holding of the Conference possible, and to the Chairman and Sir Fairless Barber were passed.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Tipping, Mr. Congreve suggested that this Conference should become an annual event.

DISCRIMINATION IN CONTROL.

However irksome merchants and manufacturers may be finding the Government control of trade and industry, there is no question that the vast majority fully recognise that such control is absolutely necessary in the national interest. It has therefore to be accepted as cheerfully as the circumstances allow, and with an adequate sense of thankfulness that business is permitted even to a limited extent, an extent not so limited after all, when we remember that the value of British ports in 1917 was more than five hundered millions sterling. This quiet acceptance of the principle that individual interests must give way to national interests is a gratifying proof of the calmness and confidence with which the people look to the future, always supported by the hope that the return of normal conditions cannot be far off. It must not, however, be expected that the end of the War will at once bring with it all the freedom enjoyed in Ante-War days. A period of reconstruction is inevitable; and therefore the Government is preparing measures which shall leave them authority to control for a period of two or three years, in some cases it should be for a shorter period, the transactions of the business community. In this connection it will be necessary to exercise discrimination. Not only must particular industries be the objects of different degrees of control, but the various markets of the world will have to be studied with equal care and discrimination. As regards the shipbuilding industry, for instance, the constantly increasing demand for ships has led to a marked development of many shipyards and engineering works, and it is to be hopod that all possible restrictions on this industry will be at once removed—that there will be no reduction of output, no slackening in effort, and no trouble between capital and labour when peace returns; that then, as now, co-operation to secure the maximum output will be the rule. In the textile industries where shortage of labour and increased wages and the high prices of materials of all kinds have led to a great decline in business, except for Government requirements, and in certain import trades, the restrictions might be reduced almost at once; and this must be urged not only in the interests of home consumers, but more particularly for the benefit of the export markets.

The restrictions now in force, and more directly the scarcity of shipping for mercantile use, has led to an advance in prices which competitors in the Far East and in neutral countries have found extremely beneficial to their textile trades. This has been most noticeable in India and the Far Eastern markets, which during the past year have remained in great need of British supplies. The increase in our prices, the high freights and the War insurance have made the average laid down cost in those markets from two or three times more than in pre-War times; yet, notwithstanding that, the shipments despatched have been taken up freely on arrival, and at satisfactory prices, rendered possible in their turn by the higher values for the commodities of those markets. As a result however, of the increased cost, and especially of the scarcity of British goods, producers in the Far East have been getting a very material hold in many articles for the Eastern markets; and when a return is at last made to normal conditions strenuous efforts will be necessary, and some time elapse before we can regain the lost ground. That is a factor which merchants and manufacturers and the Government departments concerned will have to keep constantly before them. Generally speaking the public press is apt to ignore the export side of the problem, and ideas as regards currency, taxation, wages and hours of labour are put forward which would perhaps be feasible were the United Kingdom

entirely self-contained, and able, if necessary, to exist and to pay its interest on a huge debt by carrying on the home trade alone. We shall have competition to meet after the War, even more severe than any which prevailed in ante-War days, and with our burden of debt vastly increased, it will be possible to meet such competition only by greater efforts on the part of all the community in order that more wealth may be called into existence by new or renewed industry. This section of the problem will inevitably bring forward again the question of import duties in India. Are they to be levied solely for revenue purposes, or is a policy of protection for the development of the cotton and other industries desirable in India? It has been officially announced that the whole question is to be reconsidered after the War when the new and protective cotton duty imposed about two years ago will be reviewed. In the promised reconsideration of the question, not only must the cotton tariff be overhauled but other duties also, of a protective nature, must be taken into account. In view of the changed aspect of many questions during the past three years, the problem of the Indian duties will have to be brought into the discussion of imperial and inter-imperial tariffs generally. To what degree internal reciprocal fiscal relations can be practically established within the Empire is really the subject matter for an Imperial Conference in which the Crown Colonies as well as India and the Dominions shall be represented. The view is held, we believe, by a growing and influential class that the wealth of India must be developed, and that the means by which this development shall be accomplished is a secondary question. The first few years under new conditions should show how far we can safely go in the use of tariffs to secure markets for our home products, and at the same time ensure the developments and the prosperity of of other parts of the Empire. It may now almost be regarded as an axiom that while in the past we fought competition by free imports, we shall not in future hesitate to meet it by customs tariffs.—*The British Trade Journal.*

The Effect of Light in Healing Tree Wounds.

Experiments have been made in the Dutch East Indies on four-year-old rubber trees of equal dimensions, to prove the influence of light with regard to the healing of wounds of the bark. A note on the subject in the *India Rubber World*, February 1st, 1918, gives the following short account of the experiments and results:—

From each tree a strip of bark and cambium, measuring 1 by 2 centimetres, was cut at a height of 1. 5 metres from the ground, and the wound was covered, excepting a small opening at the bottom, with pieces of blue, green, yellow, red, and colourless glass. The best results were obtained with the blue and colourless glass; yellow glass gave the worst results, all the wounds under this becoming mouldy. It appeared also that wounds from which the rubber scraps had been removed healed more slowly that those in which scraps had been left, while the latter healed less rapidly than wounds covered with colourless glass, thus indicating that it is desirable to cover wounds on the trees as a healing measure.

COFFEE.

Coffee Planting for Profit.--No. XVI.

Continued from January issue, p. 7.

SOILS—GOOD AND BAD.

(BASED ON NOTES SUPPLIED BY DR. DE CARVALHO).

Another proof, although only an indirect one, is offered by parasitic plants, especially orchids which, I have noticed, seem to thrive best when growing on trees planted on the richest ground. The presence of trees of big girth and luxuriant growth, trees which run up straight to the sky and, as it were, which race for precedence or to become "top-dog," likewise point to a good depth of mould under and around their roots. The fertility stored in the soil of a jungle, and the deep layer of humus found there, also add to the success of a coffee plantation. A soil, however covered with grass is, when sufficiently deep, also perfectly suited for coffee, especially when the ground can be manured. The question of manure must never be lost sight of, for even the best jungle soil can become exhausted, and needs setting up and being replenished with plant food the same as grass land does.

The difference between these two soils, which, although pronounced is not serious enough to render the cultivation of coffee on both equally possible, is simply this—that on virgin soil the planter may work on an "extensive" scale, whilst on steppe or grass land and on exhaustive soils the planter must expend more work and money. It is never wise to utilize exhausted land so long as rich soil is available, but, at the same time, it would be a mistake to leave an old estate for a more distant but richer area of land under the impression that he would save time, trouble, and money by making such a move.

For these and similar reasons it would be a mistake to say that jungle soil is the only one suitable for planting coffee, whilst there is no universal or infallible rule for distinguishing between good and bad coffee lands. Both can occur in the same district areas, or parcels of both are to be found quite close together.

Good coffee soils exist in Southern India, chiefly in the Madras Presidency, in the native States of Mysore, Travancore, and Coorg. Ceylon has been the most important of all the British coffee-producing centres, and possesses excellent soil for that crop. Deep chocolate in colour, friable, and rather stony in character, such soil, which is met with at the bottom of the hills or in high valleys, is the best. A deep black soil, friable, and not sandy nor clayey, is also very favourable. Estates with lands on which slab rock prevails seldom possess a sufficiently deep layer of mould to recommend it. Soils where "doon wood" grows are unsuitable.

Stones or large boulders frequently prove useful in Ceylon, where the estates are often situated on the slopes of steep mountains, as they keep the soil in place, in spite of the incessant rains. In the famous Blue Mountain districts of Jamaica there are estates on steep slopes, and here, scattered round, are gigantic boulders and stones to such an extent that one scarcely sees any mould at all ; yet it is there, and although the trees growing upon it are small and their appearance is poor, yet they yield the best coffee in the world, and the pity is that more care is not taken to help Nature to keep the soil up in the hills instead of allowing it to find its way into the valleys and be lost. It would not be an easy task, but considering the price realized by "Blue Mountain" coffee and the very restricted area in which this coffee can be produced, an area that is becoming needlessly smaller year by year, it is a great pity that more is not done than reports lead one to believe is the case, to further bank-up these Jamaican mountain slopes and do all that can be done to keep the trees standing and even add to their number. How often has the question been asked: "Why does not Jamaica double and treble her output of Blue Mountain coffee?" No one who knows the "lay of the land" would ask such a question. One can only regret, for the sake of Jamaica, that the output of this wonderful coffee cannot be upheld and even increased.

In some French colonies, as Reunion, Guadeloupe and Martinique, the volcanic subsoil has had a beneficial influence both on the production and quality of the crop raised. In Guadeloupe, for instance, volcanic soils are encountered which run to even greater depths than the famous granite soils of Brazil, and which are not so quickly exhausted even when subjected to intensive cultivation. In Central Madagascar the undulating soils of Emyrne are poor in humus, in nitrogenous matter, and also in chalk. They contain, however a high percentage of iron. In one district, for instance, the percentage of iron runs as high as 25 per cent.

When estates cannot be established on jungle soils manures are essential; if the plant-food removed by the crop is not required, the results must be less satisfactory. The planter also must ascertain what plant-food is lacking—potash, phosphoric acid, nitrogen, &c.—and see that the right one is replaced, otherwise the crops will continue to diminish, whilst the estate will still be paying for the manure applied, but which has done no good, if not some harm.

M. A. Fauchere, the famous French authority on tropical agriculture, has said that he believes that in the eastern portion of Madagascar excellenf coffee soils would be found in the wooded districts. The volcanic slopes ot Ambre mountains also seem suitable for coffee growing, although for some reason or the other the land has not been utilised for such a purpose up to now.

In Central America and Mexico a clayey subsoil is better adapted for coffee than a sandy subsoil. In Soconusco clay lands exist of a reddish and also of a yellowish colour. As a rule the yellow soil is preferred. The Cuca Coast of Guatemala belongs also to the latter (yellowish) category. In the Cordova district coffee soils abound of red clay. The estates in Soconusco are established on a rich, thick jungle soil, which is blackish in colour when moist, but turns ashen in tint when dry. Volcanic soils have proved very favourable for coffee in districts throughout Central

America. Lands which have been recently cleared are not so well adapted for coffee as are areas that have been cultivated for some little time. Matias Romero describes the principal disadvantages of freshly cleared land in the following words: " A year or two after it has been cleared the ground is completely covered with vegetation, principally weeds and plants of no known value, and which, therefore, are considered as being of a noxious and and hence undesirable character. To such an extent—does this growth cover the ground that not a square inch, not a single point," I would like to say, "is visible, so that when passing through it is impossible to advance a step without previously cutlassing a path through. This prodigious fertility of the soil causes the chief expense of cultivating such places. Weeds grow with such luxuriance and so rapidly that it is necessary therefore to keep cutting them down, an operation known as clearing the ground, weeding, or cutlassing (when a hoe is not used) has to be repeated in some places, as often as eight times a year, for, if this is not done, the growth is sufficient to choke the young coffee, and can permanently impede their growth and general development to a serious degree.

In the cleared lands of Soconusco (Mexico), and especially those at an altitude below 2,000 ft. above the level of the sea, a species of grass flourishes which attains a height of 24 in. Such grass, if not cut down in time, will choke the coffee plants completely, especially as it seems impossible to completely eradicate the grass once it has got a firm grip on the ground. These lands consist not only of inferior soils, but of lands which, being more exposed to rain and winds (when the grass is removed) become denuded of humus and top soil, and finally reach such a state as to be capable apparently, of only producing weeds.—*Tropical Life.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Tea.

Copy of telegram dated the 25th June, 1918, from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"307 Hear privately from Tea Association that in addition to final adjustments advised your sixtyeight one fortyeighth or decimal nought two of anna to be deducted from Home and Indian Controlled Concerns on account cess. Is this correct, as if so will entail further correction of contract prices"

"Teacom" (Tea Commissioner for India).

Memo No. 14197/14211 T. C., dated the 25th June, 1918.

Forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of S. I., Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,

Tea Commissioner for India.

No. 4 Ulsoor Road,
Bangalore,
4th July, 1918.

No. 50.

Labour Department.

When it is necessary to send a cheque to any Officer of the Department, will subscribers please note that it should be made out to his designation, (Director, Deputy Director, or Superintendent as the case may be,) and not personally by name.

If money is sent for advances to Labour suppliers or maistries, the number of coolies to be supplied. and all other necessary particulars should be fully stated, so as to save delay.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation.

Evelyn House,
62, Oxford Street,
London, W. 1.,
4th May, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade,
Bangalore,
India.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in enclosing circular letter which we have sent to all the Industrial Associations in the country, including those affiliated to us. asking them to formulate their policy, which we propose pressing upon the Government on the occasion of the Imperial Conference next month.

It is expected that the Conference will last for several months, in which case it may be possible that there is yet time to receive a policy from your Association, should they decide to formulate one, but in any case we think it desirable that your various interests should get together to formulate a policy which we can present to the Government at the earliest possible moment.

Yours faithfully,
G. MAKGILL,
General Secretary.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation.

Evelyn House,
62, Oxford Street,
London, W. I.
6th May, 1918.

A BUSINESS POLICY.

Dear Sir,—We desire to draw the attention of your Council to the need for an Industrial Policy for this country. In order to develop our industries and resources, capital, energy and science must be employed,

and to obtain these British industry must be assured of security against unfair foreign competition. The necessary preparations for development will take time. It is of urgent importance, therefore, that the Imperial Government should, as soon as possible, announce its policy in regard to Empire production. It has recently been pointed out, however, by a member of the Government, that for Parliament to frame a policy acceptable to the various sections of industry is impracticable, until business men can themselves say what they want. Manufacturers and producers in this country must, therefore, unite in formulating a business policy for the consideration of the Cabinet.

An Imperial Conference is to be held in London in June, at which the Prime Ministers or representatives of the Dominion Governments will be present. This offers a favourable opportunity for the industries of the United Kingdom to lay before the Imperial War Cabinet their views:—

(1) As to the measures needed to give to British industries the security necessary for development after the war.

(2) As to the steps necessary to prevent Germany or any other foreign nation from regaining any measure of control of the raw materials, industries and finance of the Empire.

We urgently appeal to all the Associations in each industry who have not already done so, at once to meet together to frame a policy.

If anything is to be accomplished it is essential that the various industries should support each other and present a united front. If a broad view be taken, divergent interests can generally be reconciled. The future of the Empire may hang on their unanimity.

We particularly ask that whatever decision is taken may be based not on academic theories, economic views, or party political prejudices. but on sound business principles, keeping always in view the security and development, not of the United Kingdom alone, but of the Empire as a whole.

For the convenience of representatives of industries we enclose a blank form giving some of the principal points to be dealt with, but we recognise that it is for those engaged in each trade who understand its conditions to say through their Representative Associations what is or is not required.

On all Industrial Associations, whether affiliated to this Organisation or not, we desire to impress the immediate necessity for co-operation in this matter. We feel strongly that it is imperative in the interests of the country to press upon His Majesty's Government the needs of organized industry: and we invite you further, when you formulate your policy, to appoint a representative of your trade, who will attend a deputation to present the united views of British Industry to the Imperal War Cabinet.

A copy of this letter has been sent to all Associations connected with your industry in the United Kingdom.

If we can be of any assistance in bringing together the various sections of your industry, we shall be happy to arrange that one of our representatives should call upon you, should you so desire.

Yours faithfully,

C. SANDBACH PARKER,

Chairman.

Points to Consider in Framing a Policy.

(1) In the event of Foreign Governments subsidising or assisting any particular Industry by artificial means to the detriment of your own, what steps do you consider necessary to safeguard your interests and to place your Industry on at least an equal footing in Empire markets with foreign competitors ?

(2) What steps do you advocate as necessary to prevent the dumping of foreign goods in this country after the war to the detriment of your industry and the unemployment of British labour.

(3) What steps do you consider should be taken to prevent Germany, Austria and other enemy countries from manufacturing goods in adjacent neutral countries under an alias, with the British Isles as ultimate destination, or exporting their goods through those countries under false Trade Marks ?

(4) What reciprocal arrangements do you advocate between the Mother Country and the Dominions, in order to : -

(*a*) Increase your export trade with the Dominions.

(*b*) In order to encourage the increased production of raw materials within the Empire and to keep it free from foreign control ?

(5) Do you consider that pre-war Railway Rates and facilities were adequate and fair to British Industry ? If not, what do you advocate as necessary to your interests ?

(6) Do you consider that pre-war Shipping Rates and facilities were adequate and fair to British Industry ? If not, what do you advocate as necessary to your interests ?

(7) Do you consider that the more systematic use of Inland Waterways would assist your Industry, and in what way ?

Note.

In considering the above points, it is well to remember that industries of the Empire may be classified under three main headings :—

(*a*) Production where we have a virtual monopoly, such as Jute, Plantation Rubber, &c. In such cases it is essential to keep control of our raw materials which, prior to the war, went in large quantities to Germany and Austria.

(*b*) Production which is equal to, or in excess of our own requirements, but not a monopoly, such as Hides, Wool, Cocoa, &c., when it is important to secure our own requirements first, next those of our Allies, then those of Neutrals.

(*c*) Production which is short of our requirements, rendering us in pre-war times dependent upon foreign countries for supplies, such as Sugar, Copper, &c., necessitating security for capital required to develop it.

The same classification could be applied to home manufactures, leaving any available surplus for enemy countries.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, supplies us with notes—an interesting article which includes on the manufacture of Green Tea, the Humus and Soil Fertility. Effect of light on healing of tree wounds and Seed Selection.

We may here notify that the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, will be leaving on tour on Tuesday the 16th instant with Mr. Mac-Rae, Government Mycologist to visit the experiments of secondary leaf fall in Mundakayam and Malabar and will be away from Head Quarters for about three weeks.

We publish the proceedings of the Special General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Mr. Edwin Vincent, Honorary Secretary, Mundakayam Planters' Association contributes a letter on the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

We call attention to the notice of the Assistant Tea Commissioner on page 460.

We publish the Proceedings of the Mysore Government respecting the Taccavi loans.

A great deal of space is taken up with letters from the Indian Tea Commissioner.

We publish with pleasure and thanks a very interesting letter on Tea spiders from Mr. W. Rai Sheriffs, Professor of Zoology.

A letter from Mr. C. H. Godfrey on the Coffee Planters' Conference at Mysore. We may inform him that the report printed in last week's issue was the one sent to us with a request to publish it unchanged.

It is with extreme regret that we have heard of the death of Mr. Thomas Hunt, an old personal friend, a keen Volunteer and Sportsman, well known to the Planters of Coorg and Mysore by whom he will be much missed.

SOUTH INDIAN PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	71,159	0	0
Mr. J. S. Nicolls	480	0	0
Total Rs....	71,639	0	0

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

The Manufacture of Green Tea.

In the United States all Tea imported is examined and must pass certain tests. The following are extracts from the Annual Report of the Supervising Tea Examiner for 1916.

"The regulations and standards prohibiting the importation of teas containing artificial colouring matter were put into effect on 1st May, 1912 and their proper enforcement has reduced the offering of such teas to the exceedingly small quantity of 2,163 lbs."

During the year a total of 109,536,526 lbs. of Tea of all kinds were examined and 1, 768, 573 lbs. rejected, this being chiefly Foochow Oolongs and Congous rejected on account of inferior quality, 18,000,000 lbs. more tea were imported into the United States for consumption in 1916 than in the previous year. Ceylon and India produced 35, 514, 797 lbs, or 32,4 per cent of the teas offered for importation into America; China produced 21,692,426 lbs. or 19.8 per cent; Japan including 18,068, 373 lbs. from Formosa, produced 51,750,801 lbs. or 47.2 per cent. and Java produced 578,502 lbs. or 0.5 per cent. The total amount of Tea offered for importation during 1915 and 1916 was divided into three general classes as follows :—

	1915. lbs.	1916. lbs.
Green Teas ...	42,330,575	45,671,400.
Oolong Teas ...	17,873,544	20,034,686.
Black Teas ...	35,102,735	43,630,440.

These figures show that while the percentage of Oolong teas imported remains about the same, the black teas have made a slight gain at the expense of green teas.

Out of the total amount of tea examined at all the ports it is interesting to note that about 79 per cent. was packed in bulk and about 21 per cent. in packages of less than five pounds. Although a much larger percentage of teas reaches the consumer in original packages than formerly the amount imported in small packages has not increased proportionately of late, due to the fact that many of the foreign firms doing a package business in America have established packing plants there.

The Tea Act and regulations promulgated thereunder have the support of practically the entire tea trade in America and many persons who were at first opposed to the non-coloured standards have changed their views and are now with the Government in maintaining and enforcing the law. It is believed that the rejections for quality can be materially reduced if the tea buyers will acquaint themselves more thoroughly with the requirements of the law.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, has received a letter from the Supervising Tea Examiner of the United States of America who last year made a trip through the East to study tea in all the tea producing countries, from which the following is extracted :—

"It is my opinion after my visit to Ceylon and India that the chief reason why Ceylon and India green teas have not been more successful is because of the mode of manufacture. As they are manufactured now, the leaf becomes so wet by being sterlised by live steam that upon rolling much

of the 'tea quality' is pressed out of the leaf and lost and in consequence most of the Ceylon and India green teas give a very *thin* cup and lack body and character. It is true that in Japan they sterilize the leaf with live steam but it is also true that before rolling by hand they partly dry off the excess of moisture by working the tea on paper trays heated from underneath by charcoal fire.

"While at the United States Government experiments in South Carolina, Dr. Charles U. Shepard and myself carried on many experiments with the manufacture of green teas and from these experiments Dr. Shepard invented a green tea sterilizing machine that sterilizes entirely with hot air, the green leaf coming in contact with dry air of the temperature of 650 degrees Fahrenheit for a short period of time. The leaves sterilized in this way are absolutely flaccid, perfectly sterilized and *very little* juice would be pressed out during the process of rolling. To get a very tight twist and a better style on our green teas, when partly rolled we would take them from the roller and run them through one of the drying machines which would cause the little juice that had been pressed out of the leaf to become very sticky and the tea upon being returned to the roller for finishing would take on a very tight twist. The teas made in this way resemble more the fine teas of China. The same leaves made by the steam process were thin, lacking body and character. During the last fiscal year (1917) we only imported 147,651 pounds of green tea from Ceylon and India. There is no reason why our importations from India and Ceylon should not be larger. My personal opinion is that it is entirely due to the process of manufacture."

At the present time very little Green Tea is being manufactured in South India, but it is hoped that the advice given above may prove of interest and possibly of value after the war.

Humus and Soil Fertility.

With reference to a note on this subject published in a recent issue of the *Chronicle* a correspondent asks what the rolling under of green manures means, and how this affects the aeration of the soil which is so necessary and important. He points out that our present methods of forking Tea and mixing manure with the soil leaves it very liable to be washed if rain follows quickly, and he suggests that it might be a good practice to stamp down the soil again after forking in manure.

The rollers employed in Europe and America are composed of a series of loose wheels each with a disc on the rim and capable of a side-ways movement. This has the effect of burying the manure and compacting the soil about it at the same time, giving it a side-ways squeeze so to speak and not producing a hard crust on the surface which would prevent the free access of air.

The essential part of the process recommended in the note referred to is the incorporation of lime and the necessity for its presence in the soil in sufficient quantities, when green dressings and humus producing manures are applied to ensure of their rapid oxidation and decomposition by bacteria. This falls into line with the usual practice on Tea Estates of burying prunings with Basic Slag; the free lime in the Slag aids their rapid decomposition.

I cannot think that it would be desirable to stamp the soil down again after digging it. There is a danger of loss by surface wash after digging and

manuring especially in pruned fields on steep slopes, but this can be prevented by protecting such soil by means of a green dressing crop sown immediately and left as a cover during the rains to be cut and used as a mulch after the rains have ceased.

The question of aeration of the soil and the advantages of consolidating it after cultivation must largely depend upon the texture of the soil. Very light soils need consolidation. An experienced vegetable gardener at Bournemouth (England), where the soil is a light porous sand, assured me that unless the soil was stamped down hard before sowing seed poor results were obtained and he always rammed transplanted seedlings hard to consolidate the soil about their roots. This hardly applies, however, to the average Tea soils which are apt to get hard and lose tilth owing to the transplanting of the pluckers. Whether it would be a good plan to stamp in prunings buried in trenches could only be ascertained by trial.

Effect of light on healing of Tree Wounds.

In the Netherlands East Indies some experiments have been carried out, says the *India Rubber World*, with four year old Hevea trees of equal dimensions to test the influence of light in regard to the healing of wounds. From each tree a small strip of bark and cambium was cut at a height of about five feet and the wound thus made was covered, with the exception of a small portion at the bottom, with pieces of blue, green, yellow, red, and colourless glass.

The best results were obtained with the blue and colourless glass, while yellow glass gave the worst results. It furthermore appeared that exposed wounds, from which the scrap had been removed, healed more slowly than those over which the scrap had been allowed to remain, while these again healed more slowly than those under the colourless glass.

It would thus appear that covered wounds heal the best and most rapidly and if this cover is transparent the best results are obtained.

From this one could gather that the best material to appiy to a wound would be some kind of transparent varnish could this be obtained,- Possibly a resin oil might be suitable.

Seed Selection.

"Much interest in this subject is being evinced in Canada, as shown by "various articles in the *Agricultural Gazette of Canada*, February "1918.

"The outstanding requirement in good seed is that it be able to repro- "duce plants with desirable characters. In speaking of pedigreed seed we "might define it as that grown from plants with a known record, and "strictly speaking, that definition is correct. In seed, as in live stock, the "ruling principle is that like tends to produce like, as a result of which it "is of the greatest importance that the seed or the animal used for propa- "gation of its kind should be of the best quality and breeding. Two "methods are used in this direction: hybridization followed by selection "alone. In every case where selection has been consistently applied to "plants grown in cultivation, its value has been proved in maintaining the "purity and vigour of the type."—(*West Indian Agricultural News.*)

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture.
Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Special General Meeting of the S. P. A. held at the Victoria Rooms Yercaud, on 5th July, 1918.

PRESENT,—Messrs. H. S. Dyer, H. S. Dickins, V. Travers-Drapes, E. Travers-Drapes, R. A. Gilby, S. M. Hight, C. L. Hight. N. Hight, C. G. Lechler, W. I. Lechler, J. C. Large, E. L. Poyser, Mrs. Robinson, Messrs. C. Rahm, W. Rahm, C. D. Ryle, Capt. B. N. Short, and Chas. Dickins (Hon. Secy.)

VISITOR,—Miss Gompertz.

(1). The Notice calling the meeting was taken as read.

(2). Re. Small change in silver, nickel or copper. Read and recorded copy of letter No. 31-3900 dated 5th June 1918, from the Accountant-General Madras, to the Collector of Salem.

(3) Re. Transfer of Inspector Santappa Pillai from Salem Town — Read and recorded memorandum No. 1166 dated 28th June from the I. G. P Madras

(4) The 2nd War Loan:—Read letter dated 1st July 1918 from Deputy Tahsildar, Yercaud. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to inform the Deputy Tahsildar that members taking up War Bonds would do so through the Presidency Banks.

(5) Election of Delegates to represent this Association at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting to be held at Madras on 19th August:—The meeting being of opinion that 2 delegates should be sent this year, it was proposed from the Chair and unanimously carried that Messrs. S. M. Hight and E Travers-Drapes represent the Association. The Delegates thanked the meeting for electing them.

(6) U. P. A. S. I. Labour Department:—Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight seconded by Mr. E. Travers-Drapes and carried:—

(*a*) That Mr. Hight's scheme for the establishment of branch Labour Offices being established near Central Kutcherries in every Planting District (the branch office for the Shevaroys being at Yercaud) be placed before the U. P. A. S. I. General Meeting to be held at Madras 19th August, 1918.

The Scheme is as follows:—

(1) That the U. P. A. S. I. Labour Department has an office at Yercaud with an Indian staff and under the control of the Labour Department consisting of.

(2) A manager with legal training on a monthly salary of Rs. 150, one clerk on a monthly salary of Rs. 30, and two peons at Rs. 10 each or Rs. 20—Total Rs. 200.

(3) The above office to be in touch with all agencies and sub-agencies of the Labour Department in South India.

(4) For the purpose of receiving and filing all complaints against maistries and coolies on failing to execute their agreements to work under Act 13 of 1859.

(5) To apply for warrants against defaulters and have them executed promptly.

(6) To consider all cases coming under the Act on behalf of the complainant at the taluk Kutcherry, also to file and conduct all civil cases for the recovery of advances when they become necessary either before the village or district munsiff.

(7) To recruit labour when required.

(8) The office to register the names of all maistries and coolies with the names of the Estates on which they have agreed to work for the year.

(9) As the coolies come up to receive from the office such rice money (which will be debited to the estate concerned) as is agreed upon and then directed to the estate.

(10) If funds from the Labour Department are not sufficient to pay for the cost of running the above office and staff, it is suggested a small fee be charged on all cases filed and conducted by the Department.

(11). A register of all estates in the District subscribing to the Labour Department should be kept at the office, and each subscribing Estate should be allowed to open an account which could be settled either monthly or quarterly.

If the office and staff on these lines were started and established at Yercaud it would be an immense boon to planters situated at a distance from the headquarters.

The S. P. A. hopes that other Associations might give this scheme their consideration with a view to having similar offices established in the vicinity of all kutcherries in all planting districts.

Proposed by Mr. V. L. Travers-Drapes, seconded by Mr. E. L. Poyser and carried.

(*b*) That the Honorary Secretary do print and circulate Mr. S. M. Hight's Labour scheme and its accompanying resolution to all planters on the Shevaroys without delay to ascertain the acreage willing to support it at Re. 1 per acre, plus about two annas per acre for the upkeep of the local Association.

(7) U. P. A. S. I. Agends Paper, 1918.—The delegates were instructed what steps to take with reference to the various subjects coming up for discussion at the meeting.

(8) INTERNED ALIENS.—Proposed by Mr. E. Travers-Drapes, seconded by Mr. J. C. Large and carried.

That in view of the fact that there are 164 German aliens interned at Yercaud who have 2 canteens from which they can purchase as much liquor as they like, and who are allowed a great deal of liberty, and the rules for restricting their movements are not enforced, notwithstanding several protests from the Residents of Yercaud, the Honorary Secretary is requested to take this matter before the authorities with a view of remedying this state of affairs.

(9) Report of the working of the Labour Department Yercaud agency for year ending 30th June, 1918. The agency was started on the 1st July, 1917 so this report covers a period of exactly 12 months. Its activities are limited to the Shevaroy Hills.

CORRESPONDENCE.—54 letters have been sent out and 36 received.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.—The actual amount received from defaulters is Rs.153-15-11. The amount of money owing by defaulters who were arrested and returned to the estates from which they received advances is Rs.135-2-3. Total Rs.289-2-2. The expenses come to Rs.186-15-6 so the profit derived by the planters from the agency is Rs.102-2-8.

No. of cases dealt with in the year is 31. Of these 19 were either sent back to the estates or their dues were recovered. In 5 cases the defaulters were traced and the estates concerned were informed accordingly. What action they took is not known as they did not inform me. In 3 cases received from the Deputy Director, enquiries showed that the defaulters were in certain villages in the plains and he was informed, but no intimation has been received as to the result. The number of cases which came to nothing are 4.

(Signed) E. A. TRAVERS-DRAPES,
Honorary Superintendent,
Shevaroy Agency.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the meeting, and the Chairman thanked the members for attending.

(Signed) CHAS. DICKINS,
Honorary Secretary & Chairman.

Mundakayam Planters' Association.

TO THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle, Bangalore.

Mundakayam, Travancore,
S. India,
9th July, 1918.

The Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Sir,—I am instructed by my Association to draw attention to the fact that a certain amount of misunderstanding appears to exist as to the position of the Mundakayam Planters' Association and the attitude adopted by its representatives at the Rubber Conference with regard to the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

It seems to have been taken for granted by many, and the idea apparently being fostered, that the Mundakayam Planters' Association, in in holding out the olive branch as Mr. Nicolls termed it, were sacrificing the whole principle of their scheme, whereas it was distinctly stated at the Conference that acceptance of the all-in cess by Mundakayam Planters' could only be on the basis of absolute guarantees regarding the funds to be allocated for the Rubber Mycologist.

The principle of the Mundakayam scheme, which there is no intention of waiving, has all along been that funds subscribed by the various industries, over and above the nominal 4 annas per acre for the general working of the U. P. A. S. I., should be ear marked for the particular benefit of the industry subscribing, either for Labour, Propaganda, Mycology or such other need as may exist,

A pamphlet has recently been published from Coimbatore by several gentlemen appealing for signatures to a declaration of support of the majority and asking for assent to the financial estimate it contains. My Association consider the pamphlet quite unnecessary, out of place, and calculated to obscure the issue at this juncture. It is most regrettable that although six of the nine signatories of this pamphlet were present at the Rubber Conference—where they agreed to guarantees being given to the Rubber Industry for the Mycologist—and although the pamphlet was issued some considerable time after the Conference, no mention whatever is made of the guarantees.

I am to point out that it is quite probable a Mycologist could be recruited from America, if not from England, (at Cochin the Deputy Director of Agriculture said he knew of a suitable man) and there is no reason to wait until after the War. Is it suggested that the Rs. 1-4-0 per acre which the Control Committee proposes as the subscription from Rubber Estates, should be paid from now on (in the event of Re-Organization) in anticipation of the appointment of a Mycologist say three years hence? If this is what the signatories mean by footnote No. 2, on page 5, then I may say that many Estates and probably whole districts will unhesitatingly secede.

Sufficient has surely been written already on the subject to make this pamphlet superfluous. It has already been stated that the Central Committee's scheme and the Mundakayam scheme agree in all but two things—the method of collection of cess and the location of the Head Office. The Conference at Cochin, representative as it was of the Tea and Rubber Industries, unanimously agreed that the points at variance in the two schemes should be settled at the Madras Meeting. The Control Committee knows very well that without a satisfactory Rubber Mycologist scheme the majority of Rubber Planters will in all probability secede. Why then this quasi-official appeal for support of the Control Committee's scheme?

My Association deprecates this method of attempting to get signatures, as was done in the case of the Enquiry Commission Circular, and now in this pamphlet, as only adding to the general confusion.

The issues are clear enough and I trust that delegates will go to Madras prepared to vote definitely on these two subjects of cess and the location of the Head Office.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

EDWIN VINCENT,

Hon. Secretary, M. P. A.

Tea.

Tea No. 390/18 Custom House, Madras,
6th July, 1918.

From

G. N. BOWER Esq., B. A.,
Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras.

To

All Shipping agents and Estates.

Sirs,—The forwarding of Garden Invoices and all correspondence in connection with the Tea Expert's Department to Madras is hereby cancelled. Until further notice the same should be addressed to—

"C. H. Griggs Esq.
Post Office Box 71, Colombo, Ceylon"

Telegraphic address—"Griggs care Heather. Colombo."

The return of Garden Invoices duly certified will not for the future be made to shipping Agents but to the Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras, who will attach them to invoices of cost in due course.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,
Your most obedient servant.

G. N. BOWER,
Assistant Tea Commissioner.

6—7—18.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Taccavi Loans.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

Read :—

Para 4 of Government Order No. Fl. 6456-68, dated 2nd May, 1918, prescribing 30th June as the latest date for profferring applications for coffee loans and desiring the submission of the list of applications to Government before 10th July, 1918.

2. Letter No. H. C. 601, dated 22nd June, 1918, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kadur, requesting that the time to receive Coffee loan applications may, for reasons given, be extended by another month ; that, with a view to facilitate prompt disposal of the applications within the prescribed time, he be permitted to depute the Sub Division Officer, Tarikere, to deal with those relating to his Sub Division, and that sanction may be accorded to the entertainment of a clerk on Rs. 35 per mensem for one year, to look after the loan work.

Order No. Fl. 45-51
G. F. 226-17-10. Dated Bangalore, 3rd July, 1918.

Government are pleased to extend the time to receive applications up to 31st July, 1918. The list of applications received (Form E) should be submitted to Government before the 5th August, 1918.

2. As regards deputing the Sub Division Officer, Tarikere, to deal with loan applications presented within his Sub Division, Government think it desirable that the Deputy Commissioner himself should attend to the work of granting loans, but they see no objection to the Sub Division Officer being asked to make the necessary preliminary enquiries and submit reports to the Deputy Commissioner.

3. Government will be glad to sanction an extra hand on Rs.35 per mensem for a period of two months if more than thirty applications are received.

Memo. No. 277. The Mysore Chamber of Commerce,
Bangalore, 5th July, 1918.

Copy of the above is forwarded with compliments to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. for information.

For the Mysore Chamber of Commerce,
L. S. V. RAMAIYER,
Secretary.

Manufacture of Tea.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Would some of the older and more experienced planters tell me what they think a fair deduction, for wet, to make at a tea factory on leaf in the monsoon, so as to obtain 25% out-turn,

I have heard of deduction as low as 10% and as high as 30%.

Yours faithfully,
PUTHARL.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 14386/14422 T. C.

From

Lieut.-Colonel W. M. KENNEDY, C. I. E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates Shipping
Tea to the United Kingdom.

Dated the 1st July, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that my experts, who examine the condition of the chests for shipment from Calcutta, report that, in the case of chests packed in gunny, the gunny cover is often insufficiently marked, and that, in some instances, the marking is badly done, stencil plates not being used and the markings being indistinct aud easily rubbed off. After consulting my Advisory Committee, I would request that, in cases where it is necessary to gunny-pack chests, all the marks appearing on the chests shall be ***clearly stencilled*** on the gunny covers, good stencil plates and a durable colouring material being employed. In the case of teas for the War Office. you are reminded that both the chests and the gunny covers should be marked with a broad arrow of the required dimensions and with the net weight of the tea in addition to the ordinary markings.

I am glad to be able to inform shippers that the expert examining shipments per s.s. "Huntscliff" reports that consignments now coming to hand are excellent in respect of packages and that the improvement in the fixing of hoop-iron is most marked. I understand that the improvement in hooping is largely due to the fact that many concerns are using a patent devise for straining the hoop iron at the time of application. Another of my experts, however, is not quite so satisfied with the condition of the packages. He reports that they are being shipped in good condition, but remarks that there has been no rush lately and that the handling is certainly careful.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen/Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 14423/35 T. C., dated the 1st July 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 14554/94 T. C.

From

Lieut.-Colonel W. M. KENNEDY, C. I. E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates Shipping
Tea to thd United Kingdom.

Dated the 2nd and 3rd Juls, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the Food Controller has advised me of the following further details in connection with the old (1917) contract.

2. (*a*) In addition to the adjustments mentioned in my circular letter No. 11219-55 T. C., dated the 13th May, 1918, there is also to be deducted on all teas whether Home or Indian Controlled, a sum of 1/48th (or .02) of an anna per lb. representing the average cess paid in the years 1911.1912, 1913, cess having been payable by the producer on both London and Locally sold teas. Shippers are, therefore, requested to make this further deduction when calculating the contract prices of Locally Controlled Concern. I regret very much that they should be put to this extra trouble, but is unavoidable in the circumstances.

(b) Until shipment the tea will be at the expense and risk of the shipper, provided that if tea is ordered by me or one of the Assistant Tea Commissioners to be ready at the port of shipment by a certain date, and if freight is not available on the date specified or later arrival of the tea at the said port, the tea shall, as from one calendar month after the date specified in the notice or one calendar month after the date of arrival, whichever be the later date, be at the risk of the Food Controller, who shall pay godown rent thereafter incurred. The Food Controller will not insure such teas during the period that they are warehoused at his risk.

3. The Food Controller has advised me in a letter dated the 10th May, 1918, that, in the case of any Locally Controlled or Rupee Registered Companies not agreeing to the adjustments finally decided upon, it may be necessary for me to debar them from entering into the new (1918) contract. No. 1918 teas, therefore, should be tendered on behalf of concerns which find themselves unable to accept the adjustments.

4. The Food Coutroller has supplied me with a few copies of the printed form of tender for 1917 teas with the general conditions of sale attached, and has promised to supply me with additional spare copies which I shall distribute to Locally Controlled Controlled when received. In the meantime I would draw attention to the following prices :—

(*a*) It is stated in the form that the contract prices are to be worked out to four places of decimals. Here we have worked out the prices to two places of decimals only, and I have asked the Food Controller for permission to adhere to this, in order to obviate the labour of making this further correction. I shall intimate his decision to shippers in due course.

(*b*) The following clause appears in the General Conditions of Sale—"Payments will be made provisionally on the basis that the price stated in the offer is accurate and is to be subject to subsequent adjustment. Any balance is to carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from the date of shipment of tea."

Here, as shippers are aware. payment has been made at temporary flat rates pending the fixation of the contract price. I have, accordingly, asked the Food Controller whether in cases where the flat rate exceeds the contract price I am to recover 5 per cent from shippers, and conversely whether when the contract rate exceeds the flate rate I am to pay shippers 5 per cent. The result of the reference will be intimated to shippers later.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 14595/603 T. C., Dated the 3rd July, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 14713/55 T. C.

From

Lieut.-Colonel W. M. KENNEDY, C. I. E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates Shipping Tea to the United Kingdom.

Dated the 4th July, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In connection with the arrangements for the payment of the value of the teas of London Controlled concerns under the new (1918) contract, 60% of which may be drawn here, the remaining 40% being paid by the Food Controller in London, I have the honour to say that, as certain firms represented to me that it would be a convenience to them if they were allowed to adjust the payments by drawing for the whole value of certain invoices here and for the whole value of others in London, the drawals being arranged so that the prescribed percentages should be correctly followed, I enquired of the Food Controller whether he had any objection to my permitting firms to follow this procedure, if they should prefer it to drawing for 60% of each invoice here and the balance in London. I mentioned

that in the case of 1917 excess teas, 50% of the value of which was payable here, and 50% in London, I had agreed to firms adopting the procedure suggested. I have just received Food Controller's reply which is as follows :—

"Number 90. Your 275. Prefer divide each invoice for payment. London proportion is by cheque here."

I, therefore, request that shippers of London Controlled teas will be so good as to arrange to draw here for 60% of the value of each invoice and for the balance in London. There is, however, no objection to a firm drawing the whole amount of an invoice in London, but the 60% which they might have drawn for here cannot subsequently be recovered by drawing here for more than 60% of later invoices.

Any firm, which has hitherto been drawing alternately here and in London for the value of whole invoices, may adjust any outstanding difference in the amounts actually drawn for here and in London, and the amounts which they are entitled to draw for in each place, by drawing for the value of another whole invoice either here or in London, as may be necessary to bring the total drawals in each place to the correct proportions of 60% and 40% respectively. But when the correct proportions have been adjusted, 60% of the value of each subsequent invoice should be drawn for here and the balance in London.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

W. M, KENNDY.
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 14756-64 T. C, Dated the 4th July, 1911.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Spiders on Tea Bushes.

College House, Esplanade, Madras,
7th July, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,

Dear Sir,—Some time ago a planting friend handed me a small bottleful of pests which he said were destroying his tea on part of the estate. This phial was labelled "Tea Mealy Bug" but I found to my surprise on observing the contents that the pest was the spider, *stegodyphus* sarasinorun (Karsch).

This is a common social spider of the plains, which builds its colony round the ends of the braches of various bushes of opuntia on the plains and Dodonea and the Barberry (Barberis) on the hills. It is common both to the plains and the hills. For I have noticed it present in large numbers

round Madras city, Chingleput, and especially in the desert, sandy region Pamban. In the Nilgiris it is got round Coonoor and also at Kotagiri.

The colonial web-masses are easily seen yards away for they resemble large tufts of wool on the bushes and are often several feet above the level of the ground. The spider is found only on bushes. It does not matter very much which bush but frequently it is a prickly one, common in the scrub jungle in which it is usually found.

On receiving the spiders in the bottle, I asked to be given a mass of the colonies from the affected tea bushes, and in a few days I received two cuttings of branches with the web—masses representing the spiders from three bushes. The spiders are active only at night, and during the day remain quietly with the colony. As the tea bushes were planted 2,500 to the acre, and 2 acres out of a 9 acre block were damaged at a level of 4,000 ft., the total number of spiders present must be very large, some 275,000.

When I got the two cuttings I took the whole web—mass carefully to pieces and counted the number of spiders within, and my result was 128 females, 36 males and 57 cocoons, each containing on the average about 4[illegible] eggs, well over 2,000 in all.

The damage done by the spider is in weaving the web—mass so closely round the tips of the tea bushes that the buds are prevented from developing and the tender leaves, gathered for tea making, from forming.

There does not seem to be any danger of this spider becoming a serious pest, for the growth of the colonies must be slow. As soon as the white web—masses appear they should be removed by hand and the spiders destroyed. Only sheer neglect can account for the hold got by the pest in the case now cited, for *stegodyphus* slowly spreads by extending the web masses from bush to bush.

Hoping that this note may be of some little interest to the planting community.

I am

Yours faithfully,

W. RAE SHERRIFFS, M. A., B. Sc.

Professor af Zoology, Madras Xian College.

Aldur P. O.,

Kadur District.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Planters' Conference at Mysore.

Sir,—May I ask for space for the following "explanation?" In the *Madras Mail* advance report (and I infer therefore in your deferred one) all mention of the statement,—that I made on the "Present Position of Coffee" which included what, I am assured, are statistics of vital importance to the Producer in considering what prices he should expect for the coming crop 18/19 (to go no further),--is *omitted*.

As to how this occurred is beside the point apart from the fact that I was obliged to warn the Reporter that it was against the law to publicly publish the figures (The Government apparently being of opinion that statistics of the movement of our India, say, 200,000 bags out of a World

production of twenty million might "benefit the enemy"). The said statement, by a tactical error, I introduced after the moving of the Coffee Cess Resolution and thus was lured on to moving an "amendment to the C. C. Resolution, which action was far from my original intention viz., to solicit support for *united action* in, and instituting a propaganda for the dissemination of news as to the true state of affairs regarding "Coffee (Indian) Stocks and Consumption" during the Past, Present and Coming years.

The Coffee Cess *may* come, and *may* do good—to the younger generation: it certainly should do so immediately, and direct, to the few who already deal in Retail sales, also to the "Channels of advertisements." That it will do much more in the *immediate present* I, regretfully, disbelieve. Be that as it may; the crying question is what to do to improve our present prospect? To this I answer, it only (a big only perhaps) requires *combination* in *holding out* for FAIR prices (no profiteering, popularly fashionable though that be) to *obtain* them. The statistics I was able to gather from unimpeachable sources prove that the present position of Indian coffee is *Strong*. The balance of 16/17 crop, and practically the whole of the 17/18 crop, have been absorbed. True, these were taken up at prices that did little or no good to the Producer; but once in possession of the Facts it will be his own fault if he accept such during the coming season. Thanks to Government help by Purchase and Prohibition of Import, the *Demand* has equalled the *Supply*: moreover it appears not simply probable but morally certain that this, under similar conditions, should continue not only for next year but for the period of the War.

During the Past Season, Prices to the Producer have varied from Rs. 3-8-0—Rs. 11-8-0 per maund; while to the consumer they have reached as high as Rs. 31-8-0 per maund. This means nothing else than gigantic profit to the middleman and in no case Fair profit to the Producer. The cost of propaganda amongst producers—the small man must "come in" as well as the big—would have been infinitesimal and chiefly a matter of organisation and personal effort: if it failed, we should be no worse off—meanwhile moreover the coffee cess might be preparing the way to meet the stern competition that must arise "after the war."

I would add that it was my original intention in furtherance of the above movement to suggest the establishment of a planters agent by whom samples of seasons' Fair average of all grades should be shewn on the Arabian Littoral, together with the prices, approximate, at which they should be obtainable, ex curing, on the West Coast of India. The same samples and prices should be furnished to the Government Trade Commissions in Bombay and elsewhere. This would both *encourage* and establish our markets. "When the War is o'er" the Lucky man who always in the Home Market averages 6*d*. higher than his neighbour *may* "come into his own" again. For the present let us be content with trying to obtain a "Fair average" for *all*. Lastly to do this we should try to induce Government. (1) to furnish—and (2) to allow the publication of—the Figures re-movements of Coffee (Indian); *monthly* from June—December, *Weekly* from January—May.

Up to date and accurate Trade Returns are the keystones of Modern Commerce. Is it really vital that we should be deprived of them?

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
C. H. GODFREY.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT U P. A. S. I.

Scale of Fees for analysis in the Bangalore Laboratory

A.—SOILS.

		Rs.
1.	Complete Chemical Analysis, including the available Potash and Phosphoric Acid	...40
2.	Mechanical Analysis	...10
3.	Complete Chemical and Mechanical Analysis ...	...50
4.	Calcium carbonate and oxide content	...10

B.—FERTILISERS.

1.	Potash in Potassic Fertilisers	8
2.	Phosphoric acid, total and citrate soluble, in Phosphatic Fertilisers	8
3.	Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, and Nitrogen in Poonacs, &c.	6
4.	Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, Nitrogen, and Phosphoric acid in Bones, Fish, &c.	8
5.	Complete Analysis of Fertilisers such as Composts, Cattle manures, &c.	...20
6.	Complete Analysis of Lime, Limestones, and Slaked Lime	...10

Half the above rates will be charged to all Members of District Planters' Associations.

For methods of taking samples of Soils and Fertilisers and the quantities to send for analysis see *Planters' Chronicle* Volume X. pages 207 and 216.

All samples for analysis should be sent plainly labelled to "The Planting Expert, 25, South Parade, Bangalore," and should be accompanied by a covering letter giving full information about the sample and the analysis desired according to the above table. Fees should be remitted to "The Secretary of the United Planters' Association of South India, 25, South Parade, Bangalore."

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, before leaving on tour left us a lecture that he delivered at the Coffee Planters' Conference at Mysore, which we have much pleasure in publishing.

We publish a letter from Mr. Chadwick, the Indian Trade Commissioner, which will be read with great interest by his many friends of the Planting Community and we hope that the suggestions thrown out by him will be followed by planters who will either write direct to him giving the fullest information, or through the Secretary, U. P. A. who will have great pleasure in forwarding such.

A letter from the South Indian Association dated May 28th is published together with much correspondence between the Indian Tea Association, the Director of Tea Supplies and themselves. The Contract referred to has reached us but is too long to publish in this week's issue.

A letter from Mr. Mead, one of the signatories of the Coimbatore Pamphlet appears.

We publish a letter from Mr. G. H. Jackson, for Secretary to Government forwarding a copy of a circular from the Government of India, Finance Department to all Chambers of Commerce and Trades Associations regarding effecting remittances through Exchange Banks.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras, Sir Bernard Hunter, has kindly placed the Buildings of the Bank of Madras, Mount Road, Madras, at the disposal of the U. P. A. for the Annual General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. in August next.

The Secretary U. P. A. S. I. will be much obliged if Honorary Secretaries of District Associations will as soon as possible send in the names of their Delegates to him.

Honorary Secretaries of District Associations are reminded that the time allowed for original propositions to be circulated expires to-day.

In accordance with notice previously given the Analytical Department of the U. P. A. S. I. is closed down as from to-day temporarily.

COFFEE SOILS AND MANURES.

A Lecture delivered at the Coffee Planters' Conference at Mysore, on 2nd July, 1918.

The analyses of a fair series of Coffee soils of Southern India are now available and on examining them I find that the commonest has the average analysis shown in the first column of the table below. The majority of the soils with this type of composition occur in Mysore but a few are found in other districts also.

	A.	B.	C.
Mechanical Analysis—			
Moisture	3·62	4·05	3·93
Organic Matter	8·58	8·77	7·47
Calcium Carbonate ...	0·22	0·15	0·12
Gravel	11·57	9·17	7·39
Coarse Sand	29·84	21·00	12·68
Fine Sand	19·37	16·25	7·45
Silt	17·17	32·50	41·94
Clay	9·63	8·11	19·00
Chemical Analysis—			
Organic Matter	8·47	8·57	7·98
Oxides of Iron and Alumina ...	16·20	11·22	26·99
Lime	0·37	0·34	0·24
Magnesia	0·40	0·30	0·29
Potash	0·25	0·17	0·10
Phosphoric Acid	0·11	0·14	0·08
Nitrogen	0·21	0·25	0·21
Available Potash	0·04	0·01	0·002
Available Phosphoric Acid ...	0·006	0·015	0·004

In this class of soil the coarse and fine sand together comprise the greater part of the mineral constituents and the type is a very distinct one so that certain general recommendations for its treatment can be laid on broad lines. Being very coarse in texture soils of this kind permit of the downward movement of water and drainage takes place readily and easily, but for the same reason they are apt to dry out in the hot weather. Deep or frequent cultivation is not needed and the soil responds well to manuring, but on steep slopes wash is apt to be considerable and means should be taken to prevent this in young clearings until enough cover has been got up to prevent it naturally. The organic matter in soils of this character oxidises rapidly and must be constantly replaced either by green dressings or mulches.

It will be noted that as usual in South Indian soils the Lime content is low and the soil is particularly deficient in available phosphoric acid, largely owing to this and the presence of a considerable quantity of oxide of iron and alumina.

The next commonest type of soil is that with the average analysis shown in the second column of the table. This class of soil occurs not only in Coorg and the Nilgiris, but also in Mysore. In chemical composition it resembles the first class very closely but the silt and coarse sand preponderate and the texture is closer and the soil is very apt to become hardand dusty in the hot weather. Drains are a necessity and it is very important to keep the soil well supplied with organic matter. Other types of Coffee soils exist of which an analysis of one is shown in column three.

With regard to manuring we may lay down the following broad principles for the first two classes. The organic matter should be maintained especially in the second class. The first type being an open one out of which soluble manures readily leach should be fertilised with bulky manures which become slowly available. Fish Guano is a very suitable fertiliser for this class of soil because it not only supplies the necessary Organic matter and nitrogen but also phosphoric acid which is markedly deficient.

The presence of humus is of importance in all Coffee soils but the value of this material does not lie in the humus *per se* but in the rapid breaking down of the material to supply plant food, in other words it is the decay of the organic matter which is needed to stimulate plant growth and not the organic matter itself. To ensure this the soils should be kept alkaline and Lime should be added at frequent intervals. The bacteria which break down the humus and change it into nitrates and ammonia in which form the Coffee is able to take up the nitrogen which it needs can only work effectively in an alkaline medium and Coffee soils are very apt to become acid especially those of the second class mentioned above. The action of the Lime also sets free Phosphoric acid in an available form. It will be noticed that though these soils contain a fair amount of total Phosphoric acid, remarkably little of this is in an available form. Much of it is held in an insoluble form by the oxides of iron and alumina. This is plainly seen in the analyses given in the table. In the soil which contains 27% of these oxides the available phosphate is the lowest of all. The application of lime helps to remedy this defect by decomposing these insoluble compounds and making them soluble.

Planters often seem afraid of overdoing this application of lime and there is a proverb bearing on the points. Proverbs are, however, proverbially untrue and we are not at all likely to apply too much Lime under our conditions. Of course to add Lime year after year and nothing else, especially if no organic matter is added, will in time exhaust the soil and this is a bad policy. The applications we give are, however, very small and all the time other manures are being applied while heavy dressings of organic matter are being annually applied by way of the leaves from the shade trees. It is this very fact of the constant application of rotting leaves which makes our Coffee soils acid and renders it essential to add Lime at frequent intervals to keep them oxidising under favourable conditions. A dressing of at least a ton an acre should be applied every three to five years and probably the more frequent interval is the better.

Phosphoric acid is a prime necessity also on these soils and should be applied in a basic form. The best source of this fertiliser is in all probability Basic Slag. On soils of the second class mentioned above more soluble fertilisers may be safely applied as it is of close texture and soluble plant foods do not easily leach out of it.

I have on many occasions pointed out that a good plan to adopt is the manuring on a system spread over a period of three or five years. The estate is divided into three or five portions in accordance with this

system and each section is given an application of Lime once in the cycle followed up by Fish Guano, Poonac, Cattle Manure, or Pulp. After this the following year fertilisers like Basic Slag, Basic Superphosphate with a certain proportion of Potash perhaps are applied and in the third year Nitrates, Nitrolim, Bones, etc., are applied. Then the time comes round again for Lime. By this system the manurial plan is known before-hand over a series of years and the annual cost does not vary very much.

Under the present conditions the fertilisers available are very much restricted. Probably the best and cheapest forms of manure available at the present time are Fish Guano and Groundnut Poonac. The place of Basic Slag may well be taken by Basic Superphosphate which is manufactured in the country. Potash salts are unobtainable and probably will be until some time after the end of the war, but with the systematic application of Lime and the careful conservation of all the ashes available the soils with which we have to deal will not suffer for lack of this constituent.

With regard to Fish I have often pointed out that care should be taken to see that it does not contain large quantities of sand and useless material. Fish Guano is as a rule the best and cheapest form in which to purchase this fertiliser and the purest. In January last the Government Fisheries Bureau issued a circular calling attention to the fact that excellent Fish Guano is available on the West Coast in considerable quantities each year and that it would be produced more abundantly if there were an effective demand. There appears to be some difficulty about planters getting into touch with the manufacturers so that they may buy direct and I have been in correspondence with the Bureau on the subject who are organising groups of factory owners for the joint sale of their product. These groups should be able to undertake the supply to planters. The Bureau have pointed out two difficulties but I see no reason why both should not be easily overcome once their existence is known. First the manufacturing season is mostly from September to January and planters would have to arrange to place their orders during this season so that they could be registered and complied with in turn as the material becomes available. The second difficulty is one about payment. Cash payments on delivery would have to be made as the manufacturers are small men who cannot possibly afford to give any credit over long periods. I hope that these difficulties can be overcome and I hope to induce the Fisheries Bureau to issue a plain statement of fact showing to whom orders may be sent and the exact conditions under which Fish Guano may be purchased direct from the manufacturers to the mutual benefit of both planter and manufacturer.

The time at which manures should be applied to Coffee is a question always cropping up and it is intimately connected no doubt with labour facilities. But I am convinced that whenever it is possible there should be two applications a year, one at the end of the dry season when Lime should be applied as well as bulk manures like Fish and Poonac and another after the monsoon or between the monsoons where both are experienced. This means roughly about September—October. At this time Basic Superphosphates and soluble manures, like Nitrates should be applied.

Manurial experiments of one sort and another have from time to time been conducted and as you know it is a difficult crop to experiment with and the unmanured plots are very apt to prove just as good as the manured ones. There are many disturbing factors which are difficult to eliminate

and one of the most important is that of climate and favourable "blossom showers". Again the control plots which are spoken of as unmanured are really manured all the time by the mulch of fallen and rotting leaves from the shade trees and this mulch is a most valuable manure. A study of the question which I made in 1912 showed that an average annual leaf fall in Coffee was equivalent to an application of 15 cwts. of White Castor Poonac, 150 lbs. of Bone Meal and 2 cwts. of Sulphate of Potash per acre which is often a bigger application of manure than is applied to the manured plots.

All manurial experiments however have not given this contradictory result. An experiment carried out at Arabidacool showed over an average of three years an increase in yield of one cwt. per acre per annum in favour of fields manured with a general mixture composed of Poonac, Bone Meal and Muriate of Potash while a similar experiment at Archully over a period of five years showed an average increase in yield of three quarters of a cwt. per acre per annum in favour of a general fertiliser consisting of Bone Meal, Muriate of Potash and Nitrate of Lime.

When manurial experiments are on an estate basis and conducted on a systematic plan as suggested above some very decided results are obtained of which the following is a good example. An estate of 50 acres was manured on a definite system including Lime. Before treatment its average yield was nine tons of Coffee. After the treatment the following yields were obtained :—

	Tons.
1911—12	9½
1912—13	18
1913—14	12¾
1914—15	6
1915—16	8

That is an average of 11 tons per annum or an increase of 2 tons. With no controls with which to compare it it is impossible to say what these would have yielded in the two bad seasons of 1914—15 and 1915—16 but judging from previous records the improvement was probably very great.

In conclusion I could say a word or two about manures in relation to disease and I wish to make it quite clear that no manure or system of manuring will prevent disease. A well manured vigorous tree is not so liable to disease as a weakly one in a poorly cultivated soil and when attacked it will not suffer so badly from the effects of the disease and it will make a more rapid and more complete recovery, but no manuring will prevent diseases attacking the trees. Diseases must be dealt with quite separately by means of sprays and preventive and curative means and you must not expect a well manured and well cultivated estate to be *immune* to the attacks of leaf-disease and scale insects though these conditions will go far to aid you in the successful treatment of these diseases.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Indian Trade Commissioner,
60, Winchester House,
Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.
21st May 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Mr. Norton,—I got your letter of 30th November last after excessive mail delays and even then did not answer it immediately as I hoped to be able to say something definite about coffee. I had already heard of the great difficulty in which coffee planters were placed through having large crops and no access to their regular markets. As a matter of fact the India Office and others interested in India here were doing their best and have succeeded in slightly ameliorating the position.

2. I am exceedingly touched by the very kind way in which both Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Malcolm referred to me in their speeches. It was undeserved. I did not expect to have to leave Agriculture and was, as you know, exceedingly interested in all problems affecting it and am a strong believer in its future development but just as the planting community ungrudgingly and with much freedom taught me of some of the difficulties and problems they had to meet on the Agricultural side, so now I hope they will continue their instruction on the trading and commercial side in the same open manner.

3. This office has been opened definitely for Indian exports and Indian industries and I was very glad to see that Mr. Hamilton had correctly stated the position when he said that the question of imports into India should be no part of the function of this office but rather of Trade Commissioners sent from home to India. The only exception I would make to this is information of new processes or machinery or new products which on the face of them might appear to be of use to India and could be adopted there.

4. There is one thing in which your Association could be of great assistance to me and that is by keeping me informed of developments, state of trade and questions affecting the planting community. I have already realised that a Commercial Information Bureau in a foreign country is entirely dependent on its country of origin for being kept promptly up to date with information. It is not an uncommon occurrence for a business man to hear rumours or to obtain a suggestion from a cable of some change or development in India without his having had an opportunity of seeing the original source of the information. He then either telephones through or calls in for verification and, quite reasonably and rightly, expects to have it handed out to him, so to speak, over the table. I hope, therefore, you will not forget me in this need and that all my old planting friends in South India will be as ready with suggestions and criticisms in the future as they have been in the past in order to make this office of real assistance to the development of India. If and when any of them come home they will almost certainly pay a visit to "the Lane" and it is only a very short walk thence to my office, and as this is on the ground floor and well placarded there will be no excuse for their not finding their way inside.

5. If you are not suffering too acutely from a paper crisis I shall be very glad if you will send me copies of your Journal as it enables one to keep abreast of the problems and questions affecting planting.

6. Please give my kindest remembrances to all my old friends and with best wishes to yourself,

I remain, Dear Mr. Norton,
Yours faithfully,

D. T. CHADWICK,
Indian Trade Commissioner.

SOUTH INDIAN ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.
21, Mincing Lane, E. C., 3, London, 28th May, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge your letter of 12th April, and thank you for arranging that a copy of the "Planters' Chronicle" should be sent regularly. These will be read with interest and filed for future reference.

So far, a fair number of concerns have joined the Association, and I am in hopes of several more who are interested in Southern India produce becoming members.

No reply has reached me to a telegram despatched to you on 2nd April, neither do you advise having received this. Possibly, as it must take some time to consult the various Associations, this may be the reason that no reply has been received. In the meantime, the Food Controller has been pressing for a reply in order to proceed with the Contract, and Mr, Knight on behalf of Southern India has agreed to the terms as arranged in the Contract. This action has been confirmed at a recent meeting by the Committee.

I enclose copy of the Contract, which was approved in conjunction with the Committee of the Indian Tea Association, and will, it is hoped, be accepted by those interested on your side.

1918 CONTRACT.—The terms of the new Contract have been under discussion. Here also the interests of Southern India have been in the hands of Mr. Knight, and the matter is practically completed.

In the main the contract will follow the lines of the 1917 Contract, and will be for 12 months from 1st June, 1918. About two-thirds of the crop of each concern will be purchased, but the Ministry of Food are only going to pay in rupees for 60% of this tea, the balance being paid in sterling. This will not affect Indian controlled concerns, which, as in the first contract, will be paid in rupees in full, and consequently are in a somewhat better position.

The above is an outline of the arrangements which no doubt will be advised to the Tea Commissioner by cable before this letter can reach you, and I will only add that I shall be pleased, to the best of my ability, to explain any matters you may not consider quite clear, and I will report later as the position develops.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BRUCE.
Acting Secretary.

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3, London, 19th March, 1918.

Tender for Tea—Southern India.

Dear Sir,—*General Conditions of Sale*, 1—A. With reference to the ½*d.* per lb, offered by the Food Controller for increased cost of production; unless such increase in Southern India is equal to ¾*d.* or more, in which case the ½*d.* shall be increased to ¾*d. but not more*, I shall be glad if you

will let me know at once if your teas have cost to produce ½*d.* per lb. more than in the years 1911, 1912 and 1913, owing to the war, and if so please send the necessary figures shewing that you are in a position to substantiate the claim.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BRUCE, Acting Secretary.

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3, London, 2nd April, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

At a meeting of the Committee held on 25th instant, I was instructed to inform all members that the Ministry of Food having intimated that they were agreeable to settle '75 of a penny per lb. on Tea sold in London and '12 of a penny per lb for Tea sold in India provided it was agreed in respect of Tea made to 31st May 1918, that a halfpenny per lb. be accepted as the figure to be taken for the increased cost.

It was unanimously resolved to recommend this proposal be accepted for all London interests, and a telegram was drawn up to this effect to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, with the hope that their members would acquiesce in regard to all locally controlled interests.

The Committee in making this recommendation, wish to explain that if the question of a halfpenny or three-farthings be left undecided, it would entail great delay and an enormous amount of work in calculation which would prevent accounts being finally closed, possibly for two years or so, and in these circumstances they felt that it would be an advantage to agree to a figure which gave reasonable results bearing in mind that the deduction if taken at '75 and '12 are favourable to Tea interests and would largely compensate for any possible deficiency in accepting a half-penny per lb.

It should be pointed out that '75 and '12 are only accepted by the Ministry provided the Tea Industry agrees to the halfpenny per lb.

A. F. BRUCE.

Copy of telegram above referred to.

"Tea Tender Food Controller agreeable to settle '75 and '12 definitely provided we agree in respect of crop to 31st May to halfpenny per pound increased cost. Committee recommending London interests accept Hope locally controlled interests will acquiesce and thereby save endless investigation and delays in settling accounts."

3rd April, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ., Secretary,
United Planters' Association of Southern India.
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge your letter of 8th February addressed to Mr. Knight, and confirm mine of 18th February.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF TEA.—At a meeting of the Committee held on 25th ultimo, the question of agreeing to certain definite figures was considered at length, and it was decided to telegraph you as follows:—

"Tea Tender Food Controller agreeable to settle point seventy-five and point twelve definitely provided we agree in respect of crop to 31st May to halfpenny per pound increased cost. Committee recommending London interests to accept. Hope locally controlled interests will acquiesce and thereby save endless investigation and delays in settling accounts."

I enclose copy of a circular which has been recently issued to members on this side with the Committee's recommendations, which, it is hoped, will meet with general acceptance by concerns controlled in India. So much trouble and labour would be caused by each concern substantiating their calculations that it was felt it would be a great advantage to accept the figures for adjustment, and the Ministry were willing to agree to this provided ½d. was accepted as the rate for increased cost of production.

In the meantime, the Contract is in the hands of the printers and is expected shortly.

It will be a great advantage if you are able to reply by wire that members on your side support the proposal.

The Indian Tea Association have agreed to these figures for Northern India, and have cabled the Calcutta Association recommending them to fall into line.

Nothing so far has been done regarding a new Contract after 31st May next, but this will probably be brought forward before long.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Secretary.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ. 8th April, 1918.

U. P. A. S. I., Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Your cablegram of 20th March addressed to Mr. Owen reading:—

"Represent Shipping Ministry hardship imposed on Southern India Rubber Estate by restricted shipment. Owing climatic causes thirty five per cent of crop is procured in October November December. Young companies capital exhausted. Without shipment will be unable meet bills when matured request shipment crop end December nineteen seventeen" has been handed over to the South Indian Association In London. I have passed it on to the Rubber Growers' Association, and I find that the yield of rubber crops in Ceylon in the months of October, November and December are much the same as in Southern India. I quote you a reply sent by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a private letter of a member of the Rubber Growers' Association, which is in reply to a similar request from them:—

> "The state of affairs to which you refer is, I fear, only another manifestation of the fact that in many places production greatly exceeds the means of transportation. It is fully recognised that the lack of tonnage has serious financial effects on some of the companies, but regrettable as this is—and no one feels it more strongly than I do—subject to the necessity of importing into the United Kingdom sufficient rubber to meet our requirements, no ships ought to be used in the present circumstances except in essential trades."

I do not think it is any good approaching the Ministry of Shipping in the meantime, but your interests shall be watched and guarded.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman.

P.S.--Copy of the Contract just received from the Ministry of Food is enclosed for your information.

South Indian Association in London.
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3. London, 8th April, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Copy of the Tea Contract is enclosed, and Members are requested to send in the form filled up direct to the Secretary, Ministry of Food, Tea Branch, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S. W. I.

Indian Tea Association, (London),
21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3, London, 12th April, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

RP/GC
Tea Branch.

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, Westminster,
London, 11th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,—The contracts filled in by the members of your Association and of the South Indian Association are now beginning to come in, It is absolutely necessary that these contracts shall be, whenever practicable, accompanied by Accountants certificates, and in any case by printed copies of the accounts of the Companies for the years in question.

Will you be good enough to advise your members and the members of the South Indian Association accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) RICHARD PIGOTT, Director of Tea Supplies.

The Secretary.
Indian Tea Association, (London).21, Mincing Lane, E.C.

Indian Tea Association (London)
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3, London, 16th April, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

I am instructed to circulate copy of a letter from the Director of Tea Supplies, from which you will observe he is prepared to take a certain quantity of the 1918 crop under the terms of the existing Contract estimated at 5—10 million lbs. between now and the end of May to take advantage of any space that may be available during May. It has been left to the Tea Commissioner in India to deal with tenders.

A. F. B.

Tea Section.
JWC/AEB

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, Westminister.
12th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I have to inform you that there is a possibility that this Ministry may, in order to fill available tonnage during May, be in a position to accept from the Indian Growers a small quantity of the 1918 crop.

I shall be glad if you will put this matter in front of your Association so that so far as London Controlled Companies are concerned, there will be no objection that this small quantity of tea, roughly between 5 and 10 million ibs. should be tendered to the Food Controller under the existing contract. I am sure your Association will appreciate the point how essential it is that no tea ship should leave India during May with space available for tea and this space not filled.

I have to inform you that the Tea Commissioner acting on behalf of the Food Controller, has accepted in Calcutta, the total offers for excess tea over and above the 40% already arranged for.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) RICHARD PIGOTT, Director of Tea Supplies

The Secretary,
Messrs. The Indian Tea Association,
21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C. 3.

Indian Tea Association (London)
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3,
London, 23rd April, 1918.

The following letter to the Director of Tea Supplies is circulated for information of the General Committee.

23rd April, 1918.

The Director of Tea Supplies,
Ministry of Food.

Dear Sir,—The Associations, of which we have the honour to be Chairmen, have duly considered the question of a new Contract for the supplies of Tea to Government. We have had the advantage of hearing what passed at the interview which the Chairman of the Indian Tea Association and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the South Indian Association in London had with Sir Harold Stuart and you.

The Contract at present in force was framed after long and careful consideration—not only of the principles involved, but of every detail of the subject. The time that was bestowed on these was given in the hope that it might serve as a basis for the future, and we submit that subject to any modifications in the factors for arriving at the price and in points of detail which experience may suggest or altered circumstances render necessary, the present Contract should be continued.

The points dealt with at the interview may, we think, be summarised as follows:—

1. Period of Contract.
2. Quantity to be purchased.
3. Price to be paid.
4. Percentage of purchase price to be paid in rupees in India and, or Ceylon.
5. Limit of time for taking delivery.
6. Quality.
7. Factors for arriving at f. o. b. basis.
8. Weights.
9. Damaged Chests.

We think it will be convenient if we deal with these seriatim—

1. *Period of Contract.*—The period suggested, *viz*:—twelve months from 1st June, 1918, would be acceptable to us.

2. *Quantity to be purchased.*—Only the Indian crop was mentioned, and estimating this at 373,000,000 lbs., the quantity suggested was 66%, or say 248,000,000 lbs. Providing that a proportionate quantity is taken from Ceylon, this would be considered satisfactory.

3. *Price to be paid.*—It was understood at our interview that you desired if possible to secure a reduction of 2*d.* per lb. in the selling price to the consumer. The methods by which such a reduction might be made in the purchase price were very carefully considered. These were:—

(*a*) By the purchase of a larger percentage of low quality tea.

(*b*) By paying the producer a lower price than on the existing contract.

We will now deal with these:

(*a*) It appears to us that this would involve the exclusion altogether of certain districts producing only high quality tea. The price paid under the present Contract was acceptable because it assured to all producers the opportunity to dispose of a proportion of their crop. Any scheme which excludes certain Growers would not only lead to great hardship to those excluded—who would thus be shut out of their principal market—

but would cause such confusion to the Industry that it does not appear that any scheme on these lines in practicable. It would moreover entirely upset the basis of payment hitherto adopted, *viz*—the average pre-war price to which we refer more particularly hereafter.

Under the proposed Contract, the Government offer to purchase only 66% of the entire crop, and to enable producers to dispose of the balance to such markets as are available it is necessary that all grades should be represented in the quantities offered at Public Auction in Calcutta and Colombo.

Our Associations are therefore unanimously of opinion that no proposal based on a selection of particular qualities or grades would meet the case, and that the only satisfactory method in the interests of the Ministry of Food as well as of Growers, is that at present in force, by which an equal percentage of all grades is taken from all estates. It must be borne in mind that equal treatment for all must form the mainspring of any collective bargain if it is to meet with the general acceptance of Growers.

(*b*). Beyond a small sum allowed towards the increased cost of production, producers receive nothing more than the pre-war price, which by no means ensures a pre-war profit. Far from there being any warrant for a reduction of the price which has been paid for the 1917 crop, it seems probable that when figures are available they will justify a larger allowance for increased cost. It has to be remembered that all costs have steadily risen during the war and still continue to rise. In addition to the factors which can be expressed in concrete figures, and which show an appreciable rise in the cost of production, there is other expenditure which in normal times would be incurred, but which, owing to war conditions has to be postponed, thus lowering the capital value of the estates. Wherever it is found possible to maintain the estates in their normal condition, the cost will be greatly increased. Owing to the war it will not be possible to procure adequate replacements of machinery or building material, or supply the necessary fertilisers. It is moreover impossible to maintain labour forces at the usual standard owing to the requirements of Government recruiting. The funds for ultimate replacement, however, of all these factors have to be provided if estates are not to be allowed to deteriorate, so that, as already stated, pre-war prices plus the allowance do not by any means yield pre-war profits to the producer.

The question of quality should also be taken into consideration. The Indian and Ceylon teas now being supplied will give a better average quality than the lower priced tea of pre-war days. It is not a question of so much per dry tea; it is a question of how many cups of tea can be got for a given sum, and there can be no doubt that the buyers of the one priced national controlled tea, are getting far better value than did buyers of the lowest priced tea before the Food Controller's scheme came into force.

4. *Percentage of purchase price to be paid in rupees in India and, or Ceylon* —All that is sought is a sufficient proportion of rupees to meet the wages of labour and actual requirements in the East. Figures are being obtained from representative concerns and will be submitted to show what percentage is fair to each district.

5. *Limit of Time for Delivery.*—No objection is raised to extending the time up to 30th November 1919, with some such arrangement regarding interest as appears in the existing Contract.

6. *Quality.*—The Tea Commissioners have full powers to deal with any case where quality is found not to be up to the standard, and we are informed that they have already exercised these powers during the past season.

7. *Factors for Converting to an f. o. b. Price.*—We agree that an attempt should be made to agree these and so do away with all adjustments in the new Contract.

8. *Weights.* The Tea Commissioners have the right to check weights at port of shipment, and this we think is the proper place for such a check of weights as may be desired to be carried out. Once on board the steamer the property passes to the Tea Controller and all risk or damage thereafter must be for his account. We shall be glad to consider any reasonable proposals directed to ensuring that the Tea Commissioners receive full weight.

9. *Damaged Chests.* We note with regret that complaints have been made as to the quality of the chests now in use, and we are prepared to circularise our members asking that special attention be given to the making up, closing and especially the hooping of the boxes. Even at the high prices now ruling, chests are only procurable in small quantities, and estates have to use whatever they can get. This also applies to nails. Triangular jagged nails, which are much the best for nailing wooden chests together are only obtained with great difficulty.

In the case of India, much of the damage that has arisen is, we believe, due to the increased handling which chests have had to stand at ports of shipment owing to the difficulties of providing warehouse accommodation, and you are, no doubt, aware that the Tea Commissioner in Calcutta has had to adopt a strong attitude with reference to the handling of boxes by the Port Commissioners and Steamer Companies.

In conclusion, subject to the reconsideration of the factor of price, we are prepared to recommend our members to enter into a new Contract on similar lines to that now in force

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JAMES STEEL,
Chairman, Indian Tea Associationn, London.
(Signed) STANLEY BOIS,
Chairman, Ceylon Association in London,
(Signed) H. M. KNIGHT,
Chairman, South Indian Association in London.

Indian Tea Association, (London)
21, Mincing Line, E. C. 3, London, 26th April, 1918.

The following letter from the Ministry of Food is circulated for information of the General Committee :—

RP/GC.
Tea Branch,
38448/2.

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, S. W. I.,
25th April, 1918.

Dear Sir.—In further reply to the letter dated 23rd instant signed by the Chairman of the Indian Tea Association, Ceylon Association and the South Indian Association, there appear to be no serious points between us in reference to your headings 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

3. (*a*) I think we shall be likely to follow the precedent of the last Contract and buy a percentage of the whole crop and not a larger percentage of low quality tea.

(*b*) We shall probably follow the precedent of the last Contract as regards pre war prices subject to adjustments.

4. I take it that nothing further can be done with regard to the percentage of purchase price to be paid in rupees until we receive from you the figures from representative concerns which you propose to submit.

7. *Factors for Converting to an f. o. b. Price.*—It is very desirable to agree these if possible, and I shall be glad to have your suggestions on the subject, accompanied with any further figures you would like to place before this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) RICHARD PIGOTT.
Director of Tea Supplies.

The Secretary,
Indian Tea Association, 21, Mincing Lane E. C.

Indian Tea Association, (London),
21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3,London, 17th May, 1918.

The following is circulated for information of the General Committee:

RP/IW
38448
Tea Branch.

Ministry of Food
Palace Chambers, Westminster,
London, 16th May, 1918.

Dear Kingsley—*Re* the new Indian Contract. On the question of the percentage to be paid in sterling and the percentage to be paid in rupees, our Costings Department is of opinion that we ought not to pay more than 60% of our purchases in rupees and not less than 40% in sterling. If your Association will agree to these proportions I can settle it accordingly. but I am sorry I cannot possibly do any better at all.

As regards the other factors '75 would be agreed as the difference between London Public Sale and f. o. b. Indian Port and '12 as the difference between Calcutta Public Sale price and f. o. b. and there will also be the deduction of 140 days interest at 5%.

As regards the increased cost of production the terms would be as printed in the current contract, that is to say you would be entitled to a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ on pre war or a maximum of $\frac{3}{4}d.$ if proved in accordance with the printed contract.

Personally I should prefer the contract to be for rather less than 12 months. If it were for 9 months I estimate we should take from the whole of India during those 9 months about 185,472,000 lbs., which would be almost exactly half the crop, estimating the crop for the whole of India at 371,000,000 lbs.

As regards the time limit at the end of the contract for payment and delivery I should be satisfied with 6 months, which would date from 1st June 1919.

I want to emphasise the importance of the tea being packed in strong packages. I am aware of some of the difficulties which growers have to face, but we have had some trouble in this respect with recent imports.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) RICHARD PIGOTT.

G. Kingsley, Esq., London.

Indian Tea Association, (London),
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3,
London, 23rd May, 1918.

General Committee.

22nd May, 1918.

RIGHARD PIGOTT, ESQ.,
Director of Tea Supplies, Ministry of Food.

R P/I W. 38448. Tea Branch.

Dear Sir,—My Committee have had under consideration your letter of the 16th instant to Mr. Kingsley, which deals with the proposal to enter into a Contract for the purchase of a proportion of the 1918 crop.

On the understanding that the period to be covered by the Contract will be twelve months from 1st June 1918 and that the quantity to be purchased is two-thirds of the total Indian crop for 1918—estimated at 371 million lbs., my Committee are prepared to recommend Growers to accept the terms set out in your letter above referred to.

My Committee are of opinion that the form of Contract already in use will serve for the new Contract with such modifications as to dates etc. as circumstances may require.

As it is desirable that arrangements should be completed before shipments begin to be made, I am to request that you will notify your acceptance as soon as convenient to enable me to advise Growers both here and in India.

I may add the Committee of the South Indian Association in London acquiesce in the proposed arrangement.

Yours faithfully
(Signed) A. F. BRUCE, Acting Secretary.

RP/GC
Tea Branch.

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, Westminster.
London, 22nd May, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date respecting my letter of the 16th instant, addressed to Mr. Kingsley. Under the circumstances I am willing to agree that the Contract shall be for 12 months from 1st June 1918, and the quantity to be purchased will be as nearly as possible 66% of 371 million lbs.

Subject to the foregoing and subject to the other points in my letter of the 16th instant, the new Contract will be the same as the old one, and I will have it printed as early as possible.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) RICHARD PIGOTT,
Director of Tea Supplies.

A. F. Bruce, Esq.,
Indian Tea Association,
21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3.

The Mooply Valley Rubber Company, Limited.
Palapilly P. O., S. India.
14th July 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

The Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Sir,—As one of the signatories of the so-called Coimbatore pamphlet, I should like to make it clear to the Mundakayam Planters' Association that I, for one, have no intention of supporting any scheme that does not provide for a Mycologist for Southern India.

I am etc.
A. H. MEAD.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. 1025 B/18-1.

From THE HONOURABLE MR. A. R. KNAPP, I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue (Special) Department.

To

The United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Dated Ootacamund the 16th July, 1918.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to communicate to you a copy of a circular letter addressed by the Government of India in the Finance Department to all Chambers of Commerce and Trades Associations regarding the paramount importance, in present conditions, of importers, Shipping Companies and others who seek homeward remittances effecting them through the Exchange Banks.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
G. H. JACKSON,
For Secretary to Government,

Copy of Circular letter No. 1820 F from the Government of India, Finance Department to all Chambers of Commerce and the Trades Associations, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon, dated 27th June, 1918.

I am directed to address your Chamber/Association regarding the paramount importance, in present conditions, of importers, shipping companies and others seeking homeward remittances, effecting these through the Exchange Banks, in order that such remittances may be applied to the financing of export commodities which are essential to the United Kingdom and her allies for the successful prosecution of the war.

2. The members of your Chamber/Association are no doubt aware that a list is maintained by Government of articles the export of which is of national importance and Exchange Banks are required, by an undertaking entered into with the Secretary of State for India, to give priority in finance to these articles. As stated in para. 53 of the Honourable Finance Member's speech introducing the Financial statement for the year 1918-19, thanks to the valuable co-operation of the Exchange Banks and merchants who have homeward remittances to make, it has been possible hitherto to avoid any breakdown in the arrangements for the financing of these exports. Cases however have been brought to notice of the Government of India in which importing firms and merchants having homeward remittances to make have utilized the cover which they have at their disposal for the financing of non-essential exports, or have disposed of it in the market for the financing of such exports. The Government of India believe that the serious disadvantages from the national point of view of such diversion of funds from essential to non-essential exports have only to be pointed out in order to be realised, and they accordingly appeal to the patriotism and public spirit of the firms and merchants concerned in the hope that they will effect their homeward remittances in the manner stated above, and thus assist the Government of India in their endeavour to supply finance to the full extent required for purposes connected with the war.

With the prolongation of the war the provision of funds necessary for the growing military and other disbursements of an allied nature which the Government of India have to meet is of itself taxing their resources very severely, and they confidently look to merchants and others for ths fullest measure of assistance which these can render in the present situation towards the financing of these exports of vital importance which the United Kingdom and the Allies are at present drawing, and will for some time to come necessarily have to draw, from India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 30.] JULY 27, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We publish the Balance Sheet of the Labour Department as at 30th June, 1918.

We publish the Proceedings of the General Meeting of the West Coast Planters' Association.

We note that Messrs. Mead, Eaton and Halliley were elected delegates to represent the Association at the Annual General Meeting in Madras in August.

We also publish the quarterly General Meeting of the Bababudin Planters' Association. We note that Mr. Dennis with whom we have had nothing but pleasant relations formerly has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of his Association on leaving the District. All good wishes and good luck go with him in his new venture.

Our Correspondence columns contain a letter from Mr. R. D. Anstead, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, cover to a short draft leaflet, the outcome of the Coffee Planters' Conference lately had in Mysore "putting forward in simple language the objects of the Cess and the reason for it."

Mr. J. A. Moore writes on guarantees and Messrs. Peirce Leslie & Co., Ltd., favour us with a letter with a view of removing some "misunderstanding that prevails in Coffee Planting Circles." "Whats up" writes on the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and asks for some comforting information on points that he cannot understand.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged ...	71,639	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
„ F. M. Hamilton	240	0	0
Total Rs....	71,909	0	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

West Coast Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the General Meeting, held at the Collectorate, Calicut, at 9-30 a.m., on Saturday, 6th July, 1918.

PRESENT.—Mr. Lescher (Chairman), Messrs. Eaton, Sheehan, Norman, Tippetts, Mead, Lister, Barton Wright, H. D. Middleton, Shaw, Morrel and Halliley (Honorary Secretary.)

The minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

374. NEW COMPANY MEMBER.—Proposed by Mr. Lescher and seconded by Mr. Morrel and carried " that the Mackimala Estate be elected a member of the Association."

375. PLANTING MEMBER OF THE TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Chief Secretary, Travancore Government repeating the Hon. Secretary, Travancore Combined Planters' Association's letter of the 28th June and asking for a reply.

376. INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary U. P. A. S. I. asking for information as to procedure.

377. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ETC.,—Circular from the U. P. A. S. I. was read and it was decided that the matter should be left over till members sent in any names. Mr. Mead said he would give the matter his attention when in Madras.

378. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE U. P. A. S. I—AGENDA.—The Agenda was laid on the table for the information of members.

379. RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Eaton, seconded by Mr. Lescher and carried "that this Association support the Control Committee's Scheme, but that they agree to abide by the vote of the majority, at the Annual General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I."

380. ELECTION OF DELEGATES.—It was proposed from the Chair and carried " that Messrs. Mead, Eaton and Halliley should be elected Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. in Madras, and be granted Rs. 150 each out of the Association's funds towards their expenses."

381. LABOUR.—There was no discussion as Mr. Campbell Hunt was not present.

382. CORRESPONDENCE.—This was laid on the table with regard to the following:—

(1) Rough handling of Goods between Tuticorin and Colombo.

(2) Income Tax Act.

(3) Pest and Diseases Act.

(4) Mycologist for Rubber.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to inform the Honorary Secretary of Travancore Combined Planters' Association of the resolution proposed by Mr. Morrel and seconded by Mr. Mead and carried " that this Association supports the Mundakayam Scheme with regard to a rubber Mycologist and that the Travancore Combined Planters' Association approach the Travancore Government again on the matter."

(5) Silver Jubilee Presentation to Mr. Bremner.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. that the Association votes Rs. 50 towards a souvenir of the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the U. P. A. S. I. to Mr. Bremner who has reported the meetings of that body since the inception.

383. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.—It was decided to hold

the next meeting at 4 p.m. on Saturday 5th October at the Malabar Club, Calicut.

With a vote of thanks to the Collector, Mr. F. B. Evans, I.C.S., for the use of the room, the meeting closed.

(Signed) R. LESCHER,
Chairman.
(„) E. H. HALLILEY,
Honorary Secretary.

Bababudin Planter's Association.

Proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting held at Kadur Club, Chikmagalur, on July, 17th 1918.

PRESENT :—Messrs. A. C. W. Denne, President, F. Hugonin, Vice-President H. Kerr, W. J. F. Lincoln, J. R. Porter, S. J. Wilson, and S. H. Dennis, Honorary Secretary.

VISITORS :—Messrs H. Allardice, C. H. Godfrey, and J. G. Hamilton.

(1). ELECTION OF HONORARY SECRETARY.— Mr. Denne said he was sorry to inform the Meeting that Mr. Dennis, who had been the mainstay of the B. P. A. for some years was leaving the district and was resigning the Honorary Secretaryship.

Mr. Kerr was elected Honorary Secretary.

(2). RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—A general discussion took place in which the visitors were invited to join.

It was proposed by Mr. Hugonin and seconded by Mr. Kerr and carried unanimously. "That this Association agree with the proposal of the Control Committee as regards an all in subscription for Coffee being Re. 1 per acre the voting to be calculated on an acreage basis."

(3). ARMY COFFEE PURCHASE CONTRACT.—That the Army Authorities be requested to give at least 3 months' notice before the commencement of the season, that is to say October so as to give Planters time to make the necessary arrangements for the execution of the orders,

(4), SANTAVERI DISPENSARY.—Mr. Denne said the buildings had been handed over to the Medical Cuthorities. A vote of thanks to Mr. Denne for all the trouble he had taken was passed.

(5). ROADS.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the President, Kadur District Board, pointing out that the following roads were badly in need of repair :—

1. Lingudhully, Birur.
2. Chikmagalur, Kadur.
3. Tarikere, Lahoulli.
4. Chikmagalur, Narasimharajapura up to 13 mile.

(6). SUBSCRIPTION TO B. P. A. (ALTERATION OF RULE 4).—It was decided that this question should stand over till the Annual Meeting.

(7). ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE U. P. A. S. I. ANNUAL MEETING.— Proposed by Mr. Hugonin and seconded by Mr. Dennis that the President and Honorary Secretary represent the Association, which was carried.

(8). INSTRUCTION TO DELEGATES.— The U. P. A. S. I. preliminary draft agenda was gone into and the Delegates received their instructions.

(9). CORRESPONDENCE UNDER VARIOUS HEADINGS.— Various letters were read and noted.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the President and Honorary Secretary.

(Signed) H. KERR,
Honorary Secretary.

UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION

Labour

BALANCE SHEET AS AT

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
CAPITAL—						
Unspent Surplus Revenue held by the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. on account of the Department				101,149	12	8
Do. with the Director of the Labour Department				18,972	0	0
				120,121	12	8
LIABILITIES—						
For Security Deposits ...	1,300	0	0			
For Sundry Estates etc., for advances, etc. received at Head Office and Agencies	24,733	13	1			
For Salaries etc. due and unpaid at Head Office and Agencies ...	2.003	0	1			
				28,036	13	2
Total Rs... ...				148,158	9	10

Madras. 17th July, 1918.

We have to report that we have examined the Balance Sheet of the (Incorporated) as at 30th June, 1918, and above set forth, with the books agencies.

We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have a true and correct view of the state of the Department's affairs according shewn by the Books of the Department and the agency returns.

The above Balance Sheet is subsidiary to the General Balance Sheet

OF SOUTHERN INDIA (INCORPORATED).

Department.

30TH JUNE, 1918.

PROPERTIES AND ASSETS.

		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.			
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS—			
At Head Office and Agencies	...	4,883 13 1	
Less Depreciation written off	...	1,826 14 6	
			3,056 14 7
STOCK OF ADVERTISING GOODS AT HEAD OFFICE	... ...		1,000 0 0
BOOK DEBTS			
Due by Sundries at Head Office and Agencies and considered good	...	5,361 6 6	
Due by Sundries for advances made on account of Sundry Estates at Head Office and Agencies	...	4,535 1 2	
Subscriptions due by Sundry Estates on account of			
year 1914-15 ... 1,596 0 0			
year 1915-16 ... 2,475 8 0			
year 1916-17 ... 8,273 1 0			
year 1917-18 ...29,756 15 6			
42,101 8 6			
Less prepaid subscriptions... 66 0 0			
		42,035 8 6	
			51,932 0 2
CASH AND OTHER BALANCES			
Bank of Madras, Madras	...	14,862 9 6	
Bank of Madras, No. 3 account	...	59,114 4 2	
Bank of Madras, Mangalore	...	2,991 15 9	
Bank of Madras, Coimbatore	...	7,555 8 10	
Bank of Madras, account Security Deposits	... ...	1,300 0 0	
National Bank of India, Ltd.	...	1,514 14 11	
Cash on hand at Head Office and Agencies	... ...	4,830 5 11	
			92,169 11 1
Total Rs...	...		148,151 9 10

Labour Department of the United Planters' Association of Southern India kept at the Head Office of the Department and with the returns from the

required, and in our opinion the Balance Sheet referred to above, exhibits to the best of our information and the explanation given to us and as

of the Association certified by us on the date.

(Signed) FRASER & ROSS, *Auditors*,
Chartered Accountants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—I have been spending much time of late in trying to answer very confusing questions with regard to the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. Now I gather from recent letters in the *Madras Mail* that if the Association is re-organised every one is likely to resign.

It is evident that something or somebody is going off the track. Being a mere ignorant Member, I should be much obliged if some one in the know would throw some light on the following questions:—

(*a*). Can a Member be appointed to represent the whole U. P. A. S. I. on the Madras Chamber of Commerce without his being duly elected by the whole Association at an Annual General Meeting?

(*b*). Is it true that the appointments of the Secretarial Staff and other Office Bearers have already been considered? If so, under what ruling?

(*c*). We have lately noticed that the strong Nilgiri Planters' Association has been split up into two minor bodies just before the Annual Meeting. What action have our leaders taken in this matter, after asking us so frequently to set aside our personal interests, and unite for the welfare of the U. P. A. S. I.?

(*d*). Is it true that the views of the anti-Madras party are not likely to be voiced at the coming Meeting? Is any one being muzzled?

(*e*). Is it not true that the only resolution at the last Annual Meeting was a proposal merely to re-organise the Labour Department; then under what authority are we going beyond that resolution?

(*f*). If it was necessary to re-organise the U. P. A. S. I. and to remove the Association from Bangalore, why were the Members not fully informed of the whole situation at the last Annual Meeting, and why were they asked to consider only Madras for our Head-Quarters? Why not other places as well?

Being deeply interested in "Union" and self-sacrifice, it will be very comforting to have some information on the above points, as it is impossible for a common or garden Member to know.

"What's up".

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings,
Calcutta.

No. 15097/15139 T. C.

From

LT. COL. W. M. KENNEDY, C. I. E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the United Kingdom to the Food Controller.

Dated the 15th July 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In my circular letter No. 14554/94 T. C., dated the 2nd/3rd July, 1918, in connection with the final adjustments to be made in

the old (1917) contract prices, I mentioned that I had referred certain points therein specified for the orders of the Food Controller and I have, now, the honour to communicate to you the instructions received from him:—

(*a*) The Food Controller has agreed to the contract prices of Indian Controlled Concerns being worked out to two instead of four places of decimals.

(*b*) As regards responsibility for payment of interest on balance flat rate payments, on which interest is payable at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from date of the shipment of the tea:—

(*i*) Where the flat rate exceeds the contract rate such interest will be paid by the shipper to the Food Controller, and

(*ii*) Where the contract rate exceeds the flat rate such interest will be paid by the Food Controller to the Shipper.

2. The above instructions finally clear up all matters in doubt regarding the old (1917) arrangements, and it will be possible now to fix definitely the contract prices of the teas of all Indian Controlled Concerns, who can then adjust the sums already received. There has been delay in fixing the prices of certain Indian Controlled teas as they have been fixed by the Committee of Experts with reference to the prices of teas of certain London Controlled Companies. I shall cable to the Food Controller enquiring the prices fixed in the latter cases,

3. Since checking the nett weight of tea it has been found that if the, English Customs practice of dealing with odd ounces, tare and gross, be followed, the nett weight often shows an apparent loss of 1 lb. (and sometimes a proportionate gain) though the actual nett weight is correct or a few ounces in excess, I reported this result to the Food Controller, and he has left the method of weightment to me, provided the nett weight of tea is correct. I shall accordingly not adopt the English Customs practice, but shall continue the present practice, the nett weight being ascertained by the deduction of the actual tare from the actual gross weight.

4. As regards the 1918 contract terms the Food Controller cables :—

"1918 contract adjustments agreed same as 1917 contract excepting "half-penny increased cost production if growers can prove three farthings "this will be paid for 1918. When revised payments clause now being "discussed is agreed contract will be finally settled."

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen/Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 15140/48 T.C., Dated the 15th July 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, of S. I. Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Guarantees.

Merchiston Estate,
Kallar P. O., Travancore,
17th July, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I have been favoured with a copy of the proceedings of the Rubber Growers Conference at Cochin and have been much interested in the scheme of Reorganisation as put forward by the various planters there. I would be glad however if the Chairman would clear up one point in his closing speech for me. In paragraph 3 on page 34 he says.

"The U. P. A. S. I. last year, at Mr. Murphy's request, agreed to guarantee the expenditure necessary in connection with obtaining the services of a special Mycologist . . . In view of this rubber planters may rest assured that the guarantee they seek will be fully secured to them" To what guarantee does he refer? He is addressing Rubber Planters and the only reference to guarantees I can find in the course of the Conference is that referred to by Mr. Vincent on several occasions when he maintained that there should be a guarantee that a certain sum should be earmarked for a specific purpose and also in his speech on page 28 when he said "It was quite possible..... they could as a Conference agree to the Central Committee's soheme if they get a sufficient guarantee that the money contributed would be definitely allotted for a definite purpose." Is this the guarantee to which the Chairman refers in his closing speech? If so will the Chairman give me a guarantee that the sum I contribute will be devoted to a specific purpose, seeing that I do not require a Rubber Mycologist nor am I in need of the Labour Department?

(Sd.) R. J. A. MOORE.

War Office Coffee Contract.

THE EDITOR,
Planters Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Calicut, 19th July, 1918.

Dear Sir,—We hear that some misunderstanding prevails in Coffee Planting circles regarding a sale of Plantation Coffee that was made by us recently.

It is probably common knowledge that our Directors in England have been closely associated with Mr. Brooke Mockett ever since restrictions were placed on the export of Coffee, in trying to obtain assistance from Government for the relief of the Coffee industry. The greatest success these efforts have so far achieved is the sale of 2000 tons to the Greek Government and, while no one knows better than we do what Planters owe to Mr. Brooke Mockett, we believe this gentleman would testify to the support he has throughout received from our Directors.

Our own sale of 500 tons, which was to the War Office, was quite separate and nothing to do with these negotiations. It was not given to us as Agents for South Indian Planters. It was placed on the market in the

ordinary way of business and our London house which is known as a large seller of Coffee secured the order,

Had the sale gone to any outside firm it would have been possible for that firm—as it was equally possible for us—to have covered the whole business straight away in the Mangalore Bazaar at prices down to Rs. 38 per cwt. We however decided to give Planters the benefit of the whole business.

The price we received, after payment of London brokerage, was Rs. 45 per cwt. and delivery had to be made free on board Calicut.

We bought to cover the sale at various rates according to circumstances but at nothing less than Rs. 42 per cwt. The average cost of purchases including delivery free on board Calicut was Rs. 42-14-0 per Cwt. Our margin on the business therefore was $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to cover our establishment expenses and risk.

The expenses, had everthing gone smoothly, were not light but they were nothing compared with the risk. In working the business as Principals we took a Principal's risk of many things such as Tonnage, Payment, and Market price. Where we acted as Principals we did not of course also charge a commission.

We were told that buyers would supply tonnage, but if the steamer had been sunk or transferred to another route, as often happens nowadays, we would still have been responsible for the payment in Rupees to our sellers at the time arranged for delivery.

As regards payment, at the time of making the sale we were not sure that we could count on being paid in rupees. The Banks might have refused to negotiate our Drafts. In that case we were bound to find a large sum in rupees and would only get reimbursed in Sterling.

As regards market price, it so happened just after we had definitely made the sale, Government announced the Board of Trade would allow import into U. K. of a certain quantity of Coffee. If at the same time Tonnage had been allotted, all Planters would have wanted to ship to London and we might have been badly left

We also took the risk of not being able to get the Coffee to the port of shipment in time, and as 332 tons of the order were bought in Mangalore, this was a very real risk in view of the difficulties of rail transport and the lateness of the season for Native craft.

We will not take up your space with a recital of our experiences as a result of the steamer arriving on the same day as the premature burst of the Monsoon in May and the heavy additional expenses that we thereby incurred but these reduced our profit considerably and the risk we took of not being able to ship at all very nearly materialized.

We have explained that this order came to us in a perfectly legitimate manner. We also mainatin that we have every right to undertake such business, having been engaged in the Plantation Coffee business in all its branches for over half a century, and have always been large sellers of Coffee in all markets.

We have only to add that if any of our own constituents want any further information which in any why concerns them, we shall be most happy to write to them personally.

Yours faithfully,

for PEIRCE LESLIE & Co., LTD., *Director*.

No. 741/1918.

Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts,
Bangalore, 16th July, 1918.

From

R. D ANSTEAD, ESQ., M. A.,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts,
Bangalore.

Coffee Cess.

Sir,—I have the honour to call your attention to the difficulties imposed upon the disposal of the Indian Coffee Crop by War conditions, conditions which will not necessarily be immediately improved on the conclusion of Peace. Though it is a fact that the 1917-18 crop has been well disposed of, prices were low and we have no assurance that future crops will be so easily sold.

2. Bearing these facts in mind the Coffee Planters of the U. P. A. S I. consider that it is eminently desirable that a decided systematic effort should be made to initiate a campaign of advertisement and the opening of Coffee shops to popularise Coffee in India itself and to stimulate the local sale of Coffee. For this purpose funds are urgently required and the best way of raising these is thought to be by levying a Cess on all Coffee exported from India.

3. As long ago as 1907 it was resolved to ask the Government of India to put an export duty on Coffee, the money thus raised to be devoted to popularising coffee in India, and since that date the question of a Coffee Cess similar to the Tea Cess raised by the Tea Planters of India and devoted to advertising and pushing local sales of Tea with marked success, has been before Government and the U. P. A. S. I. The Government, however, are unwilling to levy this tax which is in the nature of a voluntary one, unless the large majority of the Coffee growers including Indian growers consent to it.

4. This being so, at a Conference of Coffee planters held in Mysore on 1—2 July of this year it was decided to initiate an educative campaign with a view to gaining this consent next time it is asked for and I was requested to lay the matter before you and to ask for your help and co-operation.

5. I have the honour to enclose herewith a draft of a short leaflet putting forward in simple language the objecte of the Cess and the reason for it, and I am to ask you to be good enough to help the Coffee Planters by having this leaflet translated into a suitable vernacular for your District and to distribute the same, and at the same time to request that you may see your way to allowing your staff of agricultural demonstrators, or such organisation as you may possess, who are in touch with the small Indian Coffee cultivator and who are engaged in teaching him and advising him to take the matter up, to explain the objects of the scheme and gain the consent of these cultivators to the imposition of the Cess. We recognise that you are in a far better position to do this than we are, and we trust that you may concur in our views as to the necessity for pushing the sale of Coffee locally in India in competition with foreign grown Coffee and popularising it where it is at present little known, and thus raising the price of Indian Coffee to the benefit of the growers.

6. I would remind you that the proposed Cess has reference solely to Coffee sent out of India while its proceeds are to be applied to the development of the demand for Coffee in India, and that Coffee sold in India will not be taxed. Consequently the small grower who sells his coffee locally

will not pay the tax, but will, on the other hand, benefit from its imposition, since it is hoped that the result of the Cess will be an increased local demand and a better all round price. It is therefore, we claim, to the advantage of the small grower to consent to the imposition of the cess.

7. Brazil, the greatest Coffee producing country, has already proved the advantages to be derived from spending money for a similar purpose and we earnestly hope that you will realise how greatly the interests of Coffee planters in India may be served should a judicious scheme of development be adopted, and on these grounds we venture to ask for your co-operation and help in this educative campaign which we now wish to institute with the above final object in view.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

Coffee Cess.

1. You all know the war has made the shipping and selling of coffee very difficult. Many have sold at a loss.

2. We wish to point out to everyone the necessity of trying to sell coffee in this country either in small lots or large lots.

3. Despite the fact that with the assistance given by Government there is now next to no coffee left unsold in the hands of producers in India and consequently there should be a good market and a good price for the 1918-1919 crop it is indisputable that directly the war ends and shipping facilities return to their normal state, stern competition from other countries growing coffee will arise against our Indian grown coffee in markets outside India. It therefore behoves Indian coffee producers to prepare for this by pushing the consumption of coffee in India.

4. We think that the best way to do this will be to advertise in suitable papers and to open shops to sell coffee in Indian towns and in districts where it is not grown or well known as a food.

5. In order to advertise we must have money which should be collected equally among all coffee planters, Indian and European.

6. The only fair way in which to get this needed money is to impose a small cess on all coffee exported., *i.e.*, sent out of India to foreign lands. Coffee sold in the country will not of course be taxed and the cess will not interfere with this local trade.

7. It is proposed therefore to ask Government to collect a cess on exported coffee.

8. The cess that will be necessary is estimated at 2 annas a maund.

9. The Government say that they are willing to collect this cess only if all coffee planters agree to it.

10. If we cannot sell our coffee abroad we must do our best to sell it in this country. We cannot expect buyers to come to us, we must go to them and show the benefits of drinking coffee and we must think the way we have pointed out is the best and easiest.

11. The European coffee planters are willing to have this cess imposed and they hope that the Indian Coffee planters will also join them in helping in this way to increase the local demand for coffee and thus improving its drice to the benefit of all.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT U P. A. S. I.

Scale of Fees for analysis in the Bangalore Laboratory

A.—SOILS.

		Rs.
1.	Complete Chemical Analysis, including the available Potash and Phosphoric Acid	...40
2.	Mechanical Analysis	...10
3.	Complete Chemical and Mechanical Analysis ...	...50
4.	Calcium carbonate and oxide content	...10

B.—FERTILISERS.

1.	Potash in Potassic Fertilisers	8
2.	Phosphoric acid, total and citrate soluble, in Phosphatic Fertilisers	8
3.	Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, and Nitrogen in Poonacs, &c.	6
*4.	Organic Matter, Insoluble Matter, Nitrogen, and Phosphoric acid in Bones, Fish, &c.	8
5.	Complete Analysis of Fertilisers such as Composts, Cattle manures, &c.	...20
6.	Complete Analysis of Lime, Limestones, and Slaked Lime	...10

Half the above rates will be charged to all Members of District Planters' Associations.

For methods of taking samples of Soils and Fertilisers and the quantities to send for analysis see *Planters' Chronicle* Volume X. pages 207 and 216.

All samples for analysis should be sent plainly labelled to "The Planting Expert, 25, South Parade, Bangalore," and should be accompanied by a covering letter giving full information about the sample and the analysis desired according to the above table. Fees should be remitted to "The Secretary of the United Planters' Association of South India, 25, South Parade, Bangaloro."

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

His Excelleney the Governor of Madras having kindly consented to honour the Annual Meeting with his presence at 11 a. m., Honorary Secretaries of District Associations are kindly requested to instruct their Delegates that the General Committee will assemble at the Buildings of the Bank of Madras, Mount Road at 9-30 a. m. punctually, on Monday, the 19th August.

We publish the list of Delegates of ten Associations who have been elected to attend.

We would draw special attention to the letters of Mr. Henry Hart and Zig-zag appearing in our correspondence columns. The former should peculiarly appeal to coffee planters.

Annual General Meeting. 1918.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

Anamalai P. A.	... Messrs. J. E. Scott, J. H. Robinson, and C. R. T. Congreve.
Bababudin P. A.	... Messrs. A. C. W. Denne and H. Kerr.
Central Travancore P. A.	... Messrs. J. A. Richardson, D. McArthur and H. C. Westaway.
Coorg P. A.	... Messrs. P. G. Tipping and E. L. Mahon or F. Macrae.
Nilgiri P. A.	... Messrs. A. S. Dandison and A. K. W. Downing—if both unable to attend, Mr. Gerrard Rogers will act.
Shevaroy P. A.	... Messrs. S. M. Hight, and E. Travers Drapes.
South Mysore P. A.	... Messrs. C. Lake and C. J. Hayward.
South Travancore P. A.	... Messrs. J. Mackie, C. Hall, and J. B. Cook.
West Coast P. A.	.. Messrs. A.H. Mead, S.P. Eaton, and E. Hallilcy.
Wynaad P. A.	... Mr. C. E. Abbott.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	71,909	0	0
Messrs. Barber & Pascoe	75	0	0
Mr. A. J. Wright, Munnar	20	0	0
Mr. Campbell Hunt	30	0	0
Mr. C. J. Hayward	250	0	0
Total Rs....	72,284	0	0

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

Report on the Answers received to Questions circulated by order of the Chairman.

Answers received.

1. The set of Questions was sent out direct to 450 Planters, and a further unknown number were distributed through Honorary Secretaries of Associations.

128 were returned with answers duly filled in.
4 were returned with covering letters, refusing on different grounds to give answers.
1 Planter, not a member of any Association or subscriber to Labour Department, did not answer questions, but wrote he was willing to bring in 1200 acres under proposed Re-organisation.

133 Total.

Answers sent in represent the views of men controlling:—

Tea	...	48,915
Rubber	...	25,285
Coffee	...	30,593
Tea, Rubber, Coffee, area not given separately	...	7,437
Acres	...	112,230

Necessity for and lines of Re-organisation.

2. Answers were unanimous, with one exception, that Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. is necessary. As to lines on which it should be improved, replies were for "Economy" 4, "Lower pay and more capable men" 2, "Present Lines" 1, "Business Lines" 3, "More Ginger" 2, "Lines of the I. T. A." 2, "Of obtaining power to compel members to abide by and carry out Rules and Resolutions passed" 1, "The most novel suggestion made was, that the separate Departments should be registered as Limited Companies and the Agency of them given to the U. P. A. S. I." 1, For "Combination and Centralization" 14, For "Lines suggested by Mundakayam Planters' Association" 6, For "Those proposed by the Labour Department Control Committee" 63.

The last three suggestions are practically the same thing, and are supported by acreage as follows:—

	Tea.	Rubber.	Coffee.	T.C.R.	Total.
For Concentration and Centralization ...	370	940	3,141	...	4,451
M. P. A. Scheme ...	700	1,344	920	...	2,964
Control Committee Scheme ...	38,669	15,267	16,251	3,157	73,344
Acres ...	39,739	17,551	20,312	3,157	80,759

Unity was considered essential by 122, and desirable but not essential by 1. 113 expressed themselves as prepared to abide by the decision of the majority and 6 could not see their way to give that undertaking. 111 considered the present system of working cumbersome, but in several cases were not prepared to say it had in the past proved inefficient. 6 were satisfied with present arrangements.

With one exception all were of opinion that, if the Association is to continue under an Honorary Chairman, he must be given more assistance.

3. 97 were in agreement with the conclusions arrived at by the Labour Department Control Committee, 16 more or less agreed with those conclusions and 5 disagreed.

Labour Department Conclusions.

4. 44 considered Branches should confine themselves to work of Labour Department, 69 that they should undertake all duties concerning the U. P. A. S. I.

Work of Branches

5. 120 state as their opinion that the Labour Department must continue a Branch of the U. P. A. but 5 representing 145 acres of Tea and 330 acres of Coffee, consider it should be entirely separate. Only one Planter thought it advisable, in the interests of the Planting Community as a whole, that there should be several Labour Departments competing and uncontrolled by the U. P. A. S. I.

Connection between Labour Department and U. P. A. S. I

6. Although expressed in different ways, a large majority were in favour of representation of District Associations on the Council, or whatever Committee takes its place, being as at present, by one nominee from each District Association, but 9 answers advocate two representatives, and one that there should be three from each Association, one answer considers that the number of representatives should depend upon the acreage represented. 5 recommend that there should be no Council or General Committee.

Council or General Committee

7. As regards the proposed Executive Committee, only two Planters consider the Council, as at present constituted, satisfactory. 115 were in favour of, and 8 against, a small Executive Committee. Proposals alternative to those made by the Labour Department Control Committee, were :—

Executive Committee.

(*a*). That Executive Committee be larger and consist of 3 members to represent Tea, Rubber and Coffee in Native States, and 3 to represent the same industries in British India.

(*b*). One representative for each 35,000 acres under cultivation.

(*c*). That Tea should be represented by two reprentatives one for High Grown, and one for Low Grown, Teas.

(*d*). That Executive Committee should consist of 9 members, 5 to form a quorum, who should be bound to meet once a fortnight.

8. 125 voted for, and 3 against, a full time Secretary being employed. 110 agreed with the recommendations of the Labour Department Control Committee as to Staff and 9 objected to them. 3 considered the scale of Salaries unnecessarily high. One suggested the introduction of a Provident Fund for Native Staff and one was of opinion that in addition to Planting experience, knowledge of vernacular and business capacity, all Branch Managers should be in a position to give advice on Field Engineering, Botany and Chemistry.

Staff.

9. With reference to location of Head Quarters there voted :—

Location of U. P. A. S. I. Head Quarters.

For	Coonoor	... 1
	Cochin (ultimately)	... 1
	Ootacamund	... 2
	Bangalore	... 17
	Madras	... 40
	Coimbatore	... 80

10. As regards transfer of the Scientific Department to Coimbatore, many consider it should in any case be removed there. 12 think it should be located wherever the Head Quarters of the Association may be fixed. 106 voted for and 4 against transfer to Coimbatore, if that becomes the Head Quarters of the U. P. A. S. I.

Location Scientific Department.

Finance. 11. 110 Answers favour an "All-in" Subscription, 13 were against this. An analysis of answers, shows :—

	Tea.	Rubber.	Coffee.	T.R.C.	Total.
For "All-in" Subscription...	48,770	19,149	29,391	2,017	99,327 acres.
Against do. ...	145	6,136	502	5,000	11,783 do.

101 were in favour of, and 23 were against, different rates of subscription for different Products. 80 agreed with the rates suggested by the Labour Department Control Committee. 7 argue that Rubber should pay the same rate as Tea. 8 that the rate should be an equal one for all products. One that the rate for Coffee should be 8 annas an acre and one that the rates should be, for Tea Rs.2, for Rubber Rs.1/12, for Coffee Rs.1/4.

17 were in favour of a smaller subscription and the charging of fees for specific work done. 95 were against this. Advocates of special fees suggested that the Labour Department should charge a percentage of Recoveries, Rs 5 for every Maistry reported on, fees for hurrying up defaulters, Rs 2 per head for all coolies supplied, fee for conducting Civil Suits, fees (as charged by lawyers) for all letters received and answered. That the Scientific Department should charge for all letters, as above, fees for advice, information, reports, visits to Districts or Estates, and increased fee for analysis.

107 were of opinion that subscriptions must be guaranteed for a period exceeding one year. 17 considered this unnecessary. The time proposed by different answers was :—

For 1	year there voted	...	...	13
2	years	...	...	7
3		...	...	46
4		...	...	2
5		...	...	56
10		...	...	1
20		...	...	1

Admission of Firms. 12. 98 were in favour of admitting Trading Firms interested in Planting, 21 were opposed to this. 37 were prepared to grant them full membership, 67 thought they should be Honorary members only. Very few answers were received to the question as to what the subscription of a Firm should be, but in those received the amount proposed differed from Nil to the maximum now paid by any subscriber.

Admission of Personal Members. 13. 86 were in favour of admitting Personal Members and 17 against.

Office-Bearers. 14. 74 opposed Members of Firms or Personal Members holding Office, 30 were in favour of their being allowed to do so.

H. WADDINGTON,
Secretary.
U. P. A. S. I. Enquiry Commission.

Note. In addition to the 110 Planters, representing 99,327 acres, who have voted for an "All-in" subscription, in their answers to questions, eleven others, representing a further 9,202 acres, in response to the circular letter asking definite support, have intimated their intention of supporting the re-organisation scheme.

H. W.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Centra' Travancore P anters' Association.

Proceedings of 2nd Quarterly Meeting of Central Travancore Planters' Association, held at Glenmary Bungalow, Peermade, on Thursday the 11th July, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs D. McArthur, (Chairman), J. A. Richardson, H. C. Westaway, J. S. Wilkie, J. H. Wilkie, J. F. Fraser, W. F. Stephen, W. A. Asher, S. Sinclair, R. Tait, A. H. Gerrard, J. Wedderspoon, Capt. Reynolds, A. A. Brodie, C. A. Mackenzie, W. A. J. Milner, J. K. Johnson, (visitor from Sydney) and T. A. Kinmond, (Honorary Secretary).

Before opening the Meeting the Chairman proposed a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. H. S. Walford of Arnakal Estate, whose death in action adds one more name to the list of those from this District who have given their lives for the Empire. He left to join up on 11th August 1914 and obtained a Commission in the Worcesters. This was passed standing.

1. Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Arnakal on 18th June were read.

Minutes of last General Meeting were taken as read.

2. CORRESPONDENCE. (*a*) KOTTAYAM KUMILI ROAD.—The Acting Chief Engineer's reply to the Honorary Secretary's letter protesting against the words used in his letter of the 23rd March 1918 was read and recorded.

(*b*) CATTLE GRAZING.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write the Dewan and again repeat our request that Estate cattle be allowed to graze free of tax.

(*c*) MLAPARA-THANNEKUDI ROAD—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write requesting replies to his letters.

(*d*). TAPAAL.—Read letter written to the Postmaster General requesting that a Post Office be put at Bonami. Mr. J. A. Richardson kindly offered to see the Postmaster General and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to send him all information.

(*e*). The Correspondence over various matters which have cropped up since the last Meeting was also read.

3. PLANTING MEMBER TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—Resolved that the Honorary Secretary write to the Honorary Secretary Combined Planters' Association asking him to take the matter up and to personally see the Dewan if possible.

(Since this Meeting was held it is officially announced that Mr. John Mackie of Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Quilon has been appointed by H. H's. Government for a period of three years.)

4. INCOME TAX BILL No. 21/1917.—Read resolution passed by the Committee on 18th June "That the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. that this Association strongly supports the U.P.A.S.I. in any action they may make in supporting the Indian Tea Association in having Bill No. 21/1917 withdrawn as far as tea is concerned."

It was proposed by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Stephen "That the resolution passed by the Committee be confirmed."

5. Supply of Kerosine Oil Liquid Fuel.—After discussion it was resolved "That the Honorary Secretary advise Members to send their monthly requirements of Kerosine oil and Liquid fuel to Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co., Cochin without delay, even though they have already advised their requirements direct to Madras."

Mr. McArthur proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Richardson for the amount of trouble and time he had taken over this matter.

6. Bazaar Prices.—At the Committee Meeting held on 18th June "The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Commissioner Devicolam asking him what steps Government will take to regulate prices in the Bazaars and to stop the present Profiteering that is going on." This was confirmed and it was resolved "That in addition to the steps suggested, the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the Commissioner Devicolam and the Dewan requesting that a Commission may be appointed consisting of the Magistrate, Tahsildar and two Members of this Association to enquire into the matter and regulate Bazaar prices in this District."

7. District Labour Rules.—The Chairman proposed that a Committee be appointed to draw up Rules and that they make their report at the next General Meeting. The following Committee was elected:—

J. S. Wilkie,
T. A. Kinmond,
H. C. Westaway,
J. F. Fraser and
W. A. Asher.

The Honorary Secretary was also instructed to send a copy of the old Labour Rules to the U. P. A. S. I. delegates.

8. Removal Pambanar Bazaar—Read resolution of the Committee Meeting held on 18th June "That this Association is of opinion for many reasons that the Pambanar Bazaar be moved from the present place to Arraday." It was proposed by Mr. Westaway and seconded by Mr. Richardson that this Association confirms the opinion of the Committee and that the Honorary Secretary be instructed to put the matter before the Commissioner and the Dewan. Carried unanimously.

9. Election of Delegates to U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting.—The meeting being such an important one it was decided to send three delegates. Messrs. Westaway, McArthur and Richardson were asked to attend the Annual U. P. A. S. I meeting on August, 19th at Madras as our Delegates.—Carried unanimously.

10. Agenda U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting.—The Agenda was thoroughly discussed and the following comments and resolutions were made.

(1) Payment in India by Food Controller for teas of Indian Controlled Concerns.

Mr. Westaway brought up the matter of the payment for teas supplied to the Food Controller, by Indian controlled concerns, and pointed that they were not being paid for in full, as should be the case. Mr. Westaway and Mr. Richardson undertook to supply copies of correspondence to the Honorary Secretary so that the Delegates to the U. P. A. S I. annual meeting could bring up this matter if it has not by that time already been settled by the Tea Commissioner in India.

(2) Import of Java Teas into Australia.

Mr. Richardson addressed the Meeting as follows :—

Gentlemen, with the permission of the meeting I should like to add another subject to the Agenda, i. e. the import of Java teas into Australia and the recent correspondence which has taken place on the subject in the *Madras Mail* of the 4th July, also in the *Indian Planters' Gazette*.

You may remember that in June 1917 there was considerable agitation on the subject of import of Java teas into Great Britain and her Colonies, and as a result of this the Commonwealth Government agreed to prohibit the import of these teas into Australia. This was done at the instigation of the Colonial Office on representations made to them by British tea producers. This restriction was of considerable value to us and we were greatly indebted to the Australian Government for their action. Unfortunately however the Indian Government has not backed up the interest of the Indian producer as it should have done and has never prohibited the import of Java teas into India although several representations were made to the Government of India by the Planting Community asking them to safeguard the interests of the Indian Planter. The reply given being that the quantity of Java teas imported into India was of a very negligible quantity and was not worthy of notice. However from statistics given in the *Madras Mail* by our planting correspondent it is now clear that very large quantites of outside teas are being imported through Bombay.

Only the other day a member of one of the leading firms of Australia when coming up to India actually saw a shipment of Java teas taken on board a steamer at Batavia for Bombay, and I think we can hardly be surprised to hear that within the last few days the Commonwealth Government had decided to again allow the import of Java teas into Australia.

The Government of India must surely realise that the Food Controller is only taking a certain percentage of our yearly crops and we have to find markets for the balance.

We had a very promising market in Australia although we are faced with shipping and exchange difficulties, and we have a still better market in the country which is now being exploited by outside teas to the detriment of the Indian planter and I think we should use every possible means of bringing our grievance before the Government of India and also the home Government, and I would ask this Association to pass the following resolution to be sent by the U. P. A. S. I., to the Government of India through the Government of Madras and also to our London Association, and proposed the following resolution seconded by Mr. McArthur :—"That this Association learns with great regret the decision of the Australian Government to again permit the import of Java tea into the Commonwealth. Java tea was prohibited in Australia in June last year in the belief that such action would be of assistance to British producers. It is to be greatly regretted that the Indian Government were not consistent, in as much as they continued to allow Java teas to be imported into India. It is not surprising therefore that this inconsistency was used as one of the arguments in favour of raising the embargo on Java teas to Australia.

"In view of what has happened this Association requests that the Indian Government will now prohibit the import of all outside teas, and thereby safeguard the producers in India who will have a large surplus of tea over and above the quantity taken by the Food Controller for which they must find a market, and they should be placed in a position to do the whole of the increasing domestic trade of India and without outside competition."—Carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed that this Association give Mr. Richardson permission to send a copy of his resolution to the Honorable Mr. Knapp, also that a copy be sent to the Indian Tea Association and the Honorable Member at Ooty.

(8) LABOUR AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT.—Proposed by Mr. Milner and seconded by Mr. Tait "That this Association does not approve of the proposed amalgamation of the Srivilliputhur and Nagercoil Agencies of the Labour Department, and that no action in this matter should be taken without this Association being consulted as to its views."—Carried unanimously.

(4) Resolved that this Association wishes to express its appreciation for the time and trouble that the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. and the Honorable the Planting Member have expended on behalf of the Planting Community.

11. RESTRICTION OF CASH BY POST.—It was proposed by Mr. J. S. Wilkie and seconded by Mr. C. A. Mackenzie "That this Association approach the Postmaster-General asking him to permit the remitting of a limited amount of small silver change by the Madras Banks to Estates as previously, owing to small change being unprocurable locally."—Carried unanimously.

Read letter from the Madura Company re-transport.

The Meeting was then closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. J. S. Wilkie for his kind hospitality, and another to the Chair.

D. McARTHUR,
Chairman.

T. A. KINMOND.
Honorary Secretary.

Nilgiri Planters' Association.

At a general meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association held at the Collector's Office on Tuesday, the 16th July, 1918, the following members were present :- -Mr. A. S. Dandison, Chairman, Mr. J. S. Nicolls, Chairman, U. P. A. S. I., Mr. E. Sydenham Clarke, Mr. R. Bake, Mr. P. Beaver, Mr. A. K. W. Downing, Mr. E. E. Limouzin, Mr. L. F. Lake, Mr. Gerrard Rogers, Mr. W. D. Martin, Mr. W. W. Moir, Mr. Rhodes James and Mr. J. B. Vernede.

PREVIOUS PROCEEDINGS.—The proceedings of the previous meeting was taken as read.

THE WAR LOAN.—Mr. Dandison said he would like to speak a few words on this subject.

He was glad to say that the amount put up by Nilgiri Planters was considerable, and gave the figures to date. He was unable to mention the names of subscribers for this considerable sum, for which he had only acted as a very poor canvasser.

Though the Loan Meeting was over, it did not mean that Planters' efforts should cease, and he hoped to see the amount brought up to a good round sum.

He understood that a circular would be issued shortly regarding small amounts in connection with Maistries and Coolies taking up Post Office certificates and was sure that Planters would help them as much as possible.

RECRUITING AND ESTATE LABOUR.—After reading the correspondence between Mr. Rhodes James, Mr. Brackenbury and Mr. Jones, the Recruiting Officer, and after considerable discussion, the following resolution put from the chair was carried.

"This meeting is of the considered opinion that *effective measures* should be taken to ensure that no recruit is enrolled who may be already under advances to others. If coolies once realised the facility with which the obligation of an advance or an agreement would be evaded by enlisting, as at present, they would not be able to resist the temptation of taking Government money and thus perpetrating a fraud on their employer, in spite of the risk of a criminal prosecution, and suggests that if enquiries were made on the lines proposed by Mr. Rhodes James in his letter of June 20th to the Sub-Collector there might be less likelihood of coolies under advance to estates being enrolled. We also feel that owing to Lieut. Jones starting recruiting in the heart of a Planting District, special steps should be taken.

THE U. P. A. S. I. AGENDA.—The meeting gave instructions to its delegates on the various points raised in the U. P. A. S. I. Agenda.

As regards the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. the meeting instructed its delegates to act in accordance with the resolution passed at a previous meeting of the association, namely, to support the scheme of the Control Committee. In this connection Mr. Gerrard Rogers pointed out that the interests he represented were not prepared to pay a subscription of more than twelve annas on Coffee, Rs. 1-8 on Tea or an all round subscription of one rupee and that if the Control Committee's scheme was to be carried his 3,000 acres would have to be withdrawn.

The Chairman said he was sorry Mr. James Stanes had not been present in person at the last Meeting when this matter was on the agenda.

It was too late in the day to re-discuss our decision to support the Control Committee's proposals.

Mr. Nicolls said that it was not possible to now go into the views of individuals or the minority but that the delegates would have to support the opinion of the majority in supporting the Control Committee's scheme.

ASSOCIATION'S SUBSCRIPTIONS.—In opening this subject the Chairman stated that the cause of this item being on the agenda was that some members were seceding to the Nilgiri-Wynaad Planters' Association. He had come to this meeting very hot about the matter, as he considered there had been an attempt to rush the N. P. A. to which association subscriptions were legally and morally due, but a conversation he had just had with Mr. Nicolls had calmed him considerably.

Mr. Nicolls then explained that the N. W. P. A. scheme was originated by him four years ago, and was then only shelved not dropped, as acreage at that time was small. Since then large acreages have been developed, and it was impossible to expect men to come long distances to Ooty for meetings regularly.

Moreover more acreage would join the U. P. A. S. I., and it would tend to more interest being taken in planting matters.

Estates would *not* leave the N. P. A. till December, and subscriptions would be paid as usual.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Nicolls for his statsment, which had cleared misunderstandings as to the payment of Subscriptions, which was the only point of disagreement.

He said he would like to read a few lines from the calm part of a speech he had intended making before Mr. Nicolls had soothed him; he thought it only fair to all concerned to do so, and especially to Mr. Nicolls himself. He said:—

"I would hasten to add that the subscriptions on acreage represented by certain highly placed planters have been paid to us, and the latter have

in no way attempted to sever their connection with us. Whether they will resign during the year, I do not know, but if they do, they are perfectly justified and though we shall be sorry to lose them personally and shall regret the loss of acreage, we shall wish them success in their new association and shall respect *them* for playing the game."

Mr. Nicolls said that he did not wish to sever his connection with the N. P. A., and hoped to remain on as a personal member, a statement which was welcomed by all.

PLANTERS AND THE I. A. R. O., ETC.—The Chairman having referred to the notice he had issued already and explained its reasons, correspondence was read on the subject. The meeting expressed its gratitude to Government for allowing us to do our own combing out (in the first instance at least) and a committee was formed of the following gentlemen to decide what Planters might be spared from this District :—

Sir Fairless Barber, Chairman.		
Mr. J. S. Nicolls,	Representing,	Gudalur.
Mr. Elkington	do	Coonoor.
Mr. Beaver	do	Kartary and Kullakamby.
Mr. O. W. Marden	do	Kotagiri.
Mr. de Courcy	do	Pykara and Naduvatam.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Dandison was asked to receive the Director's Annual Report on behalf of subscribers and to circulate the same.

With a vote of thanks to the Collector for the use of the room, and also to the Chair, the proceedings terminated.

(Signed) A. S. DANDISON,
Chairman.

Coorg Planters' Association.

The Annual General Meeting of the Coorg Planters' Association was held at the North Coorg Club, Mercara, on July 17th, 1918, commencing at 10-30 *a.m. with Mr. G. K. Martin President in the Chair.*

PRESENT.—Messrs. P. G. Tipping, J. Hume, H. W. Sheldrick, H. M. Mann, J. W. Irwin, A. F. Magniac, W. A. F. Bracken, G. R. Pearse, A. H. Jackson, W. R. Wright, E. L. Mahon, F. Macrae, T. J. K. Hext, Talbot Cox, A. J. Wright (Honorary Secretary.)
Visitor.—A. Vipen, Esq., Executive Engineer, Coorg.

The notice convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the last General Meeting were gone through, and confirmed on the motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Bracken.

The President then opened the proceedings with the following speech :

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen,—It has become the custom for a Chairman to make some stereotyped remark on the War, in commencing his address. I cannot think of anything original to be said on this subject, so I propose to pass it over. Death has removed from our midst a very familiar figure of former years, *viz.*, that gay and debonnair sportsman, and planter of the old School—Charles Edward Murray-Aynsley.

Now gentlemen, I should like to say a few words about the business of the day.—The most important of which is the re-organization of the United

Planters' Association of Southern India, and in connection with this, the re-organization of our own Association.

I hope there are very few here who are not already convinced of the importance of this subject, and I trust there does not exist one who maintains that a Central Organization such as the U. P. A. S. I. is dispensable, holding that a local Association is sufficient for our needs.

I know there are "back woods men" who do not think an association of any sort, of any use! but they do not count!!

I would like to bring to the remembrance of those in the second category (if they exist) the gloomy outlook that confronted us at the beginning of the crop picking season when the importation of our coffee into England and France was prohibited, and shipping space was refused on the grounds that our industry was "of no national importance"!

It will be remembered that, faced with this desperate outlook, we approached our Chief Commissioner at Mercara with an address. The Hon'ble Mr. Cobb is, as we know, a strong and able man and an influential Officer, and was honestly "out" to assist us to the full extent of his power. What did he advise us! He told us that he sympathised with our difficulties and would do all that lay in his power to overcome them, but if we wanted a speedy response and help we should go to our Central Association, and enlist its aid to approach the "fountain head." "Nothing like a personal "interview with heads of departments," he said," and a deputation from your "U. P. A. S. I., would carry weight and obtain a hearing." We took his advice and the result was the deputation to H. E. The Governor of Madras on the Coast, the interview with H. E. The Viceroy, and the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India at Madras and finally the deputation to Sir Geo. Barnes the Minister of Commerce and Industry at Delhi—all arranged by, and under the auspices of the U. P. A. S. I., which resulted in arresting the attention of the Supreme Government to the serious, and desperate situation we were placed in. To the efforts of the U. P. A. S. I. deputations, we owe the initiation of the Military proposal to supply the Indian Army with coffee as a ration, and the decision to deal directly, through the U. P. A. S. I., with coffee growers for the purchase of their coffee. When fully developed these Military contracts should be of considerable benefit to us.

This was followed by purchases of coffee for the British troops in Europe of some 500 tons, but by some mischance the contract for this fell into the hands of a firm of middlemen, and we growers did not derive the full benefit that was, no doubt intended, though it is something to the good that this amount of coffee was moved. Next time we hope that through the exertions of Mr. Brook Mockett who is most zealously looking after the coffee planters interests, the purchases for the troops at Home will be made direct from the producer as in the case for the Indian troops.

The purchase of coffee—a very large quantity (practically all that was left of the crop) for the Greek Government was better managed and we obtained the full benefit of the same. Thus a season that began gloomily, ended brightly, and promised a more cheerful outlook. Can any one say we should have got out of the wood so well without the support of the U. P. A. S. I.? Here is an instance of its usefulness to us and of its indispensability. There may be two opinions about the necessity of re-organising it, but only one as to the necessity of having a strong and well organised Central Association supported by every district Association in Southern India.

The question of re-organisation has been carefully thought out by able minds, and all aspects of the case examined, discussed, and explained, orally, and in writing, so that you have all had an opportunity of forming an opinion on the various points in connection with this matter, I trust therefore you have come prepared to give your decision on these points, and instruct your delegates how to vote at the coming U. P. A. S. I. Meeting.

This was followed by the Honorary Secretary's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—The war commented on by the late Honorary Secretary Mr. Tipping is still unhappily being waged, and taking toll of many valuable lives. Two more of our members, Messrs. O'Beirne and Newbery have been killed and we have recorded their deaths with deep regret. Coorg has given of its best fully and freely. Fifty three Planters and sons of Planters are in the fighting line, or aiding the Empire in other ways. Our men have a record of one V. C. four M. C.'s and a Croix de Guerre, honours well merited.

One of our oldest members, Mr. C. E. Murray Aynsley, a former President of our Association, has passed away.

MEMBERSHIP.—During the year we have lost two and gained one. There is a new member to be proposed at this meeting (Mr. R. C. Morris). After the war is over and things become normal, the little band of Planters around Attikan wish to form an Association to be affiliated with ours.

Regarding the General work we have had a very busy year. We have had the honour of a Deputation to the Hon. Mr. Cobb at Mercara, whose sympathetic council and active assistance (coupled with that of our Commissioner, Mr. Hannyngton) to Coffee Planters has been of the greatest help and I would like to record our appreciation to them.

Our Delegate, Mr. Tipping, had an interview at Madras with the Viceroy and the Hon. Mr. Montague, and had the opportunity of interesting these Gentlemen in a subject of which very little is known outside of planting districts. He explained our difficulties, and the abnormal situation, owing to the war, and was met with a hearing that left little to be desired.

Mr. Tipping (with Mr. Lake of Mysore) also went to Delhi to interview Sir George Barnes, and if we did not receive all we had hoped for, at least the Army Coffee Purchase (at the instance of the Viceroy and concluded with the Q. M. G.) materialised and has been of assistance to us. We owe our thanks to Mr. Tipping for the able way he has furthered our interests.

Other subjects that came up for consideration at our meetings during the year were—Prohibition of Foreign Coffee into India, (our Association may consider the decision of the Government of India was largely due to our exertions) Disrtict Board Takkavi Loans—Coffee markets—Exchange—Embargo on Coffee to the U.K.—British Producers Association—Defence of India— etc. and lastly the Re-organisation of the C. P. A. and U. P. A. S. I.

These last two subjects are still under consideration. I believe those who were at the Coffee Planters' Conference at Mysore will discuss these matters with broader views than would have been possible had the meeting not taken place.

We are standing at the parting of the ways. I have no record of when our Association was inaugurated, the earliest notice of proceedings is dated 1/11/1881, with Mr. Evans as Honorary Secretary. Until now, subscriptions have been on a personal basis. Our Association has expanded, its energies and interests have increased with the times, and will, I trust, still further

increase: for this purpose more funds are needed, and newer ways and I hope the acreage subscription basis will be adopted, and everyone join.

The end of the war and the impending Constitutional Reforms for India will bring many and important changes. As a member of the C.P.A. I wish to see it sinking small differences, and uniting in a body to meet each new condition as it comes. For one thing I foresee a great scarcity of labour, owing to new industries, expansion of established ones, and probably of our own. We can only command attention at the hands of Government or other bodies by putting forth our best efforts.

The accounts are laid on the table, I shall be pleased to explain anything.

I have to add—

1. That members of the S. O. Fund have all consented to give the interest of the capital on deposit, for one year only to the expenses of the C. P. A.

2. Mr. Brook Mockett, through the U. P. A. has asked for figures of our 1918/19 crop. I have given 2400 Tons European, 600 Indian estates, as against last year's 1800 and 700. The latest West Coast figures of unsold Coorg coffee are Parchment 10 Tons, Cherry 173 Tons.

3. Recruiting for the Pioneers has caused a deal of nervousness among our coolies. It was represented to the Commissioner, who has done all he could in the matter and also to the Department. The Collector of South Canara has sent out notices to putails and leading residents that the story of compulsory recruiting is entirely false. The Labour Department is sending Maistries up to some estates on passes.

4. I have been asked to place the annual accounts of the Pepper Stealing Prevention Fund on the table. They show a balance of Rs. 92/1/- in hand and also of the Coffee Stealing Prevention Fund and remarks thereon by Mr. Macrae.

5. Will Delegates please note the place of Meeting (of the U. P. A.) will be in the Bank of Madras new buildings in Mount Road on the 19th August. Will they also book accommodation at their Hotels well in advance?

6. I circulate a petition form for signature on behalf of our Kut-el-Amara soldiers, who are in the hands of the Turks.

7. Some may like to see a leaflet on the water hyacinth. I am greatly obliged to my Committee who helped me considerably and I now place my resignation in your hands.

(Signed) A. J. WRIGHT,
Honorary Secretary, C. P. A.

The Accounts were subjected to criticism mainly as to the form of the entries and were amended accordingly, and in the Honorary Secretary submitting them as amended, they were passed unanimously.

The result of the ballot for office-bearers for the coming year was then given out, and Mr. G. K. Martin was again elected as President, Mr. A. J. Wright, Honorary Secretary.

The delegates to the coming U.P.A.S.I. Meeting were Mr. P. G. Tipping, either Mr. E. L. Mahon or Mr. F. Macrae.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
(List still incomplete).

For North Coorg.	*For South Coorg.*
J. W. Irwin	F. Macrae
H. M. Mann	W. A. F. Bracken
G. R. Pearse	P. G. Tipping
W. R. Wright	E. L. Mahon
	A. H. Jackson

On the question of the Delegates expenses to attend the meeting of the U.P.A.S.I. at Madras the President proposed that the same be considerably enhanced, as the sum hitherto allowed did not suffice, and it was asking too much of the delegates to give all their time and trouble, and to be out of pocket as well. This was carried. A fixed sum was not named but the above principle was to be kept in mind.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—It was recognized by all members that this Association had reached a stage when the old personal subscription must go, and the acreage basis come in. This was ably dealt with by several speakers. Mr. Mahon who was the proposer of a resolution on this subject said he would prefer to bring up first the voting on the acreage basis, and then take up the re-organization proposition. Owing to inequalities of acreage it was difficult to arrive at an equitable solution that would meet every case, and allow of a fair proportionate voting. The crucial point was how to obtain financial support, but in order to get at this, it was desirable to devise a method of voting that would meet all views. Speaking as the originator of the voting scheme, he said he was willing, as far as his interests would allow. to accept any alternative scheme that was fair to all. Once this difficulty was overcome the rest would be plain sailing. Mr. Mahon then read his scheme for fixing voting powers on an acreage basis. The scheme was briefly as follows:—

1. That an Estate of say 400 acres or under be entitled to one vote.

2. An Estate or group of Estates, of same ownership, over 400 acres have a vote for each 400 acres, and an additional vote for any excess acreage remaining.

3. That in the event of a tie between two parties voting on opposite views of a question, the party containing the greater number of individuals has the majority. This applies as follows:—

If say 3 Owners having one vote each, vote together on a question and the Manager of a Company having 3 votes records them opposition, the group of owners, as containing the greater number of individual votes, gains the day.

This subject led to considerable discussion, and among the points brought up were (1) The question of personal membership (on which some members insisted) and the voting powers to be allowed the same, also the subjects on which they may vote. (2) The question of election of office-bearers—fears being expressed that a district would be at the mercy of one big firm. The representative of which would be able to control the voting on this matter.

The members set great importance on the equitable adjustment of these various points, as affecting individual and financial support of the Association, the President therefore decided to allow considerable lattitude for discussion of a very informal kind, which lasted the rest of the morning and was even carried into the luncheon room when the meeting was adjourned for this meal.

When the meeting was continued in the afternoon the President intimated that he would like to take the sense of the meeting on the subject which had been so long and fully discussed, and he put it thus:

That this Association be placed on an acreage basis, and in the event of our accepting the U. P. A. S. I. Control Committee, or any other proposals for an all in subscription to the U.P.A.S.I. funds on an acreage basis that we agree to add to the same 2 as. per acre for the purpose of meeting the C. P. A. expenses. That as regards future voting basis in C. P. A. affairs this Association accept the principle of Mr. Mahon's proposals for proportionate voting in respect of general matters including finance, but as regards

balloting for office-bearers, individual voting (one man one vote) be adopted.

That personal members be allowed to join the Association and that they be accorded a personal vote each.

As to this last question, in order to safeguard proprietors, and prevent them being outvoted by their subordinates, it was agreed, on a motion put by Mr. H. M. Mann, and seconded by Mr. G. R. Pearse that every member who puts acreage on the C. P. A. shall have a personal vote in addition to his acreage vote or votes.

On the matter of acreage voting—a vote for every 100 acres found more favor than one for every 400 acres as suggested by Mr. Mahon.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—On the general question of the necessity for re-organizing this Association the meeting was unanimous, and it proceeded to go into details in connection with the same.

In order to arrive at a consentient opinion on these matters the President went through the list of questions sent out by the Enquiry Commission to all planters, and others interested in the planting industry and recorded the sense of the meeting on each of them. The first 19 questions were disposed of in agreement with the conclusion of the Control Committee, except that in No. 9 the opinion was in favor of the Branch Offices confining themselves to Labour Work.

As regards the question (No. 20) of the location of the Head Office the meeting was of opinion that this should be arranged in accordance with economy and convenience of the majority but that the Annual General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. ought to take place as heretofore, at Bangalore.

As to question 23 the meeting was unanimously and emphatically in favor of an all in subscription to cover all the activities of the U. P. A. S. I.

Dealing with question No. 24, the meeting on the whole were not in favor of different rates of subscription for different Products but favored Mr. Lake's proposition carried at the Mysore Conference of a uniform rate for the 3 products tea, coffee, and Rubber, that while the rate of Rs. 1/5 per acre suggested seemed reasonable, the meeting would not hamper the delegates by binding them down to this sum—a general agreement on this point was of chief importance.

On the subject of guarantee, the meeting being announced that a guarantee of subscriptions for a certain period was necessary to stabilize the organisation, it agreed to a maximum of 3 years.

Regarding questions 31 and 32 the meeting were agreeable to admitting Trading Firms to full membership provided their interests in planting extends to possessing property in land or holding a power of attorney for *bona fide* landowners and in the event of their admission. Each firm shall have only one vote regardless of the amount of subscription it pays.

Question 34. Personal members may be admitted under certain qualifications and who are eligible under present rules.

As regards question 35 the answer is unanimously in the affirmative.

The right of the Planting Member to have a vote on the Executive Committee was supported by the majority on the grounds that no member of an appointed Committee can be deprived of his vote.

GENERAL.—There were more subjects of importance that needed consideration, but owing to want of time they had to be postponed.

NEW MEMBERS.—Mr. F. Fitzgerald and Mr. R. C. Morris were duly elected as members of the Coorg Planters' Association.

VOTES OF WELCOME AND THANKS.—Mr. Macrae proposed a vote of welcome to our new Executive Engineer and Mr. Mahon a vote of thanks to the Chair and Honorary Secretary.

The meeting then ended.

(Signed) G. K. MARTIN,
President, C. P. A.

(„) A. J. WRIGHT,
Honorary Secretary, C.P.A.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Half-yearly General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association held at the Club at 10-30 a.m., on Monday, 22nd July, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. S. Scott (Chairman), J. Hatton Robinson, C. K. Pittock, J. A. R. Lloyd, J. H. Ireland-Jones, J. E. Sampson G. A. Marsh, A. C. Cotton, B. M. Behr. E. W. Simcock, E. Hardy, D. Cooper, S. Sladden, C. Fraser, S. C. Biddell, J. Carless, J. O. K. Walsh and C. R. T. Congreve (Honorary Secretary).

MINUTES.—Read and confirmed the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 20th May, 1918.

ROADS.—Mr. Robinson opened this subject. He said he considered the present state of the main road very bad in parts, and that this was entirely due to insufficient consolidation. In a conversation he had with the Overseer a short time ago, the Overseer said there was great difficulty in getting this work done properly owing to the narrowness of the road and the largely increased traffic especially of heavy loads such as Tiles, etc. Mr. Robinson informed the meeting that he had been told that toll receipts had increased 100% in the last 5 years. Mr. Marsh informed the meeting that he understood the tolls on our Ghat were now greater than those on the Ootacamund Ghat, which proved how large was the volume of traffic on the road. The Honorary Secretary was again asked to draw the attention of the Executive Engineer to the bad state of the top portion of the Ghat road and to request that steps might be taken to put it into better repair at an early date.

With reference to the Government proposals for the future upkeep of the roads in the district. the Honorary Secretary informed the meeting that no reply had been received to his letter dated May 21st.

With reference to the upkeep of local roads in the district, considerable discussion took place. Mr. Robinson said he considered it most public-spirited and sporting of Messrs. Marsh and Behr to continue the upkeep of the Korangumudi road in the way they were doing.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.—Mr. Robinson complained that, owing to telegrams received at the Post Office after Tappal Coolies had left not being delivered, he had been put to considerable inconvenience and asked what steps had been taken to start Telegraph Peons as agreed to at a former meeting. The Honorary Secretary said that so far he had been unable to get the necessary coolies for this work, but hoped to arrange for them shortly.

Mr. Biddell complained that an Estate Cheque Book forwarded to him by Registered Post had been lost, but had eventually after considerable delay and trouble been found in the local Post Office. He had made enquiries as to why it had not been delivered and it was apparently owing to the carelessness of the local Post-master. The

present Post-master had apologised for the mistake and had pointed out that he was away on leave at the time the mistake occurred.

GRAIN AND CART RATES.—Mr. Robinson said he thought it most unfair that certain estates had increased their cart rates anyhow temporarily without informing the other members of the Association as agreed to unanimously at the meeting held on March 18th. He pointed out that, owing to his refusal to do so, he had been put to very considerable loss due to the collapse of buildings in the wet weather in May, which would have been obviated had he also increased his rates slightly, but that he had refused to do this as it was in contravention of the district agreement. The gentlemen who had increased their rates, whilst apologising for not informing the rest of the district, pointed out that the increase had been only temporary and that it had been necessary in two cases owing to the Managers having no Bazaar agreement and therefore having to pay extra to cartmen to get up food and supplies for their estates.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee appointed to go into the whole question to meet and consider what had best be done. This was agreed to.

MEDICAL.—The District Medical Scheme as drawn up by the Special Committee appointed by the General Committee was gone into clause by clause. The Honorary Secretary was requested to send a copy to the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber for consideration.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—Considerable discussion took place as to the rates of subscription necessary for the proper running of the re-organised U. P. A. S. I., and the feeling of the meeting was that the rates suggested by this Association at their meeting held on the 5th November, 1917, and re-affirmed at the meeting held on 20th May, 1918, were not too high and that, if the Labour Department was not to be starved for want of funds and the other activities of the Association were to be properly run, no less subscription would be sufficient. After arguments for and against, the following resolution proposed by Mr. Fraser and seconded by Mr. Behr was passed unanimously:—

"That while adhering to its previous resolution with reference to acre-
" age subscription this Association considers it advisable to send its delegates
"to the Annual General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. with free hands to
"vote as they may consider most beneficial for planting interests provided
"that the total income under all heads does not come to less than 2¼ lakhs."

"With reference to the proposed Executive Committee the Association
" were of opinion that the Planting Member should not have a vote."

GOVERNMENT ORDER, ARMY DEPARTMENT NO. 7227.—The Honorary Secretary read this order together with covering letter from the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber. The following committee were elected to go into the whole question:—

The Chairman, the Honorary Secretary and Messrs Marsh, Carless, Robinson, Behr and Simcock.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO ANNUAL MEETING OF THE U.P.A.S.I.—Messrs. Scott, Robinson and Congreve were elected and agreed to attend.

U. P. A. S. I. AGENDA.—This was left to the Committee to deal with.

LABOUR CONTRACTS.—Mr. Robinson, in opening this subject, said that he was willing to leave it over to the next meeting as it was a subject of the greatest importance to the whole district and one which would require more time than was then available. He said the present condition of Labour Contracts was most unsatisfactory in as much

as when most labour was required it was not available, whereas at the time of year when there was little work going on there was generally more labour than necessary. The only feasible way of getting over this difficulty was, in his opinion, to alter the dates for entering into contracts with Labour and he proposed to bring up a resolution on this matter at the next meeting. Mr. Fraser also spoke on this subject which it was agreed should be held over till the next meeting.

With a vote of thanks to the chair, the meeting terminated.

(Signed) J. E. SCOTT,
Chairman.

(„) C. R. T. CONGREVE,
Honorary Secretary.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on July 24th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs, Cheeseman, Craig, Eyre, Gillatt, Gwynne, Lobban, Macbain, Malcolm, Powell and Abbott, Honorary Secretary.
Visitor.—Mr. Knighton.

MR. GWYNNE IN THE CHAIR.

PROCEEDINGS OF LAST MEETING were confirmed.

2387. PROFITEERING.—Read letter from the Honorary Secretary to Collector of Malabar and his reply. Also letter from Mr. Evans concerning the appointment of an Emergency Committee asking Mr. Abbott to act as a Member and his reply. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee for Wynaad—Messrs. J. W. G. Bisset, J. A. Gwynne, T. S. Gillatt and C. E. Abbott. It was decided to ask Mr. Gillatt to act as the Association's representative on the Calicut Committee as he is our District Board Member. Read also letter from Mr. Winterbotham mentioning a report that the export of grain from Mysore is to be prohibited. Resolved to telegraph to the Labour Department to enquire. As a result it would appear that some restrictions have been placed on booking grain for places outside the Province by rail.

2388. INCOME TAX ON TEA FACTORIES.—It was stated that the Committee had recommended that no action should be taken till a reply was received from the Government of India to the I. T. Association's protest.

2339. RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—Read letters from Sir F. Barber and Mr. Mackie. The proposer and seconder agreeing, it was decided to alter the second part of the resolution passed at the June Meeting (para 2385) to " All Proprietors and their Agents shall be eligible as Members of the U. P. A. S. I. with full powers."

2390. SUBSCRIPTION TO WYNAAD PLANTERS' ASS CIATION.—Mr. Gillatt brought forward a suggestion that the basis of this should be altered to an acreage one, the personal subscription being done away with. The subject was to lie over for future consideration. At present the acreage subscription of 2 annas goes to the U. P. A. S. I. and the personal subscription of Rs. 12 per member has to pay for office, printing, Delegates' expenses to Annual Meeting, the upkeep of the Poodapady Hotel and sundry items. Since the fund created by the sale of the Erramaculla bungalow has been exhausted these personal subscriptions are hardly sufficient. It was calculated that a subscription of 1½ annas per acre would be required,

2391. POODAPADY HOTEL—The Honorary Secretary was authorised to pay Mr. Gillatt Rs. 105 for the wages of the Hotel Manager up to the end of the year as a special case. In future Members of the Association will not have to pay halting charges. Mr. Gillatt has made out a tariff for meals.

2392. RE-SETTLEMENT OF WYNAAD.—Read letter from Mr. Todd, I. C. S., Special Settlement Officer and Honorary Secretary's reply. Approved. The Meeting considered that the question of tree valuations ought to be considered but those present were unable to give any recent instances. The Honorary Secretary was to enquire further. It was agreed that there was no objection to the darkhast rules being adopted generally and substituted for waste land rules.

2393. ROADS.—Read correspondence about the Noolpoya—Sultan's Battery and Kartikollam—Coorg roads. It is stated that the repairs have been carried out to bridges on the Noolpoya Road and that repairs to the Kartikollam road are being executed, but that the Engineer has a great deal of difficulty about labour there.

2394. I. A. R. O.—Read and discussed correspondence. The following resolution was passed unanimously.

" Resolved that in the opinion of this Association it would be possible to carry on the estates as an emergency measure with one European per 800 to 1000 acres according to the situation of estates and that any further reduction of European supervision below the limit would result in considerable injury to the industry. At the moment there are 11358 acres in the district with 17 Europeans in charge (of whom some have applied to go into the Army and have been pronounced medically unfit) or an average of 668 acres per man. Twelve Members of the Association have already joined the Army. If more men are required the Government are requested to take them bearing the above limits in mind and considering the circumstances of each group. That this Association is also of opinion that the case of married men should receive special consideration in that their wives and dependents should receive suitable separation allowances."

2395. U. P. A. S. I. AGENDA.—This was gone through. The Meeting considered that the Labour Department subordinate Agents should confine themselves to their Departmental work.

2396. SUPPLY OF SMALL COIN.—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to Collector of Malabar asking if it could be arranged that the Vayitri Treasury should keep sufficient small coin to pay, say, Rs. 200 a month to each estate in exchange for notes, as the Post Office refuses to carry silver coin; and his reply stating that he was unable at present to obtain as much small coin as he required from the Accountant-General. A remittance of Rs. 1,000 has however been sent to the Vayitri Treasury and whatever quantity can be spared will be sent to Wynaad. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to thank the Collector.

(Signed) J. A. GWYNNE,
Chairman.
(„) C. E. ABBOTT,
Honorary Secretary.

WYNAAD PLANTERS IN THE ARMY.—His friends will be interested to hear that Lieutenant Dobree R. F. A. who has been wounded for the third time, happily only slightly, has received a bar to his Military Cross "for gallantry and devotion to duty" during the April fighting in France.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Sir,—Perhaps you can find room for yet one more letter on the subject of the U. P. A. S. I. Re-organisation.

The Control Committee's scheme will, I venture to predict eventually go through with certain modifications and additions. All District Associations, according to their reported proceedings in your columns, agree that reform of the Executive and of the Staff is necessary. As regards Headquarters, if a move is to be made at all, it should surely be to Madras, and not to Coimbatore, which has little to recommend it in preference to Bangalore. IS IT A FACT that an office in Madras could not be found at a moderate rent? It was rather thought at a recent district P. A. meeting, I believe, that the Control Committee had been mistaken in this matter, so I trust our "Planters War Cabinet," as one might term them, will go into this question of rent in Madras thoroughly. There is no doubt that Mundakayam is right in insisting on Madras as our headquarters and every effort should be made to meet them on this point.

We planters do not, of course, want to be run by the mercantile firms of that city, nor is there any real danger of this happening as Mr. Gerrard Rogers fears, but WHAT WE DO WANT is to be in touch with the Banks and Shipping offices there, as well as with the Madras Government, Personal interviews are always worth far more than pages of correspondence and incidentally economise paper, especially in the case of Government.

The 'knotty' points of course are the way in which the cess is to be collected and the staffing of the Labour Department. An "all in" all round subscription certainly seems to be the most practical means, as any other method would hardly assure the Labour and Scientific Department a fixed income, which is so essential. On the other hand Mundakayam appear to have right on their side in asking that their portion of the cess less than 4 annas per acre on "general" account should be allocated solely to the Scientific Department as they are in the fortunate position of not requiring the services of the Labour Department.

Can this not be assured them on an "all in" cess of R. 1/5 per acre?

As regards the Labour Department Tea opinion as a whole will probably criticise the Control Committee's scheme as too economical for real efficiency (see the resolutions passed by the Annamalais P. A. and others.) It is doubtful whether a "re-organised' General Secretary, if he is to relieve the Chairman and Planting Member of much of their present work, can act as Labour Director as well; and a responsible head of the Labour Department is no extravagance. However little RUBBER may need this Department their less fortunate brethren of the Tea and Coffee interests certainly require the most efficient assistance in this way they can obtain, and if the re-organisation is not going to give them this it looks as if the result was to be more in the way of DIS—than RE-organisation.

It was, I think, Mr. Lake at last year's Bangalore meeting who proposed that the Labour Department should be run more economically and criticised the extravagance of the headquarters salaries, which was fair

enough criticism: but surely it is not desirable to save on the *total expenditure* of the Labour Department, any saving effected at headquarters should be utilised to provide additional District Superintendents—at least such, I imagine will be found to be the views of most Tea Associations, so that it looks as if some arrangement will have to be come to by which those who wish for more assistance from the Department than can be provided by the "all in" cess will be able to obtain it by paying an extra cess. Curiously enough this is the suggestion of the Shevaroy Planters' Association at their ast meeting and it seems a reasonable one.

As regards the present Labour Department, useful though it is, great room for improvement no doubt exists and I would suggest the following broad outlines.

1. That there be a separate Director of the Labour Department as at present with his headquarters at Coimbatore. A Deputy Director does not seem necessary.

2. That the Nagercoil agency be retained, as it is the only office of the Department in Travancore, but that its area should be extended, thus relieving the Srivilliputtur Superintendent who has too large a district.

3. That at least one other Superintendent be appointed to this (the Srivilliputtur) district (after transferring part to Nagercoil) and that it should be divided into two, with one office at (say) Maniachi, and the other at Srivilliputtur as now.

4. That all necessary extra assistance be given the Coffee districts.

5. That all coolies coming up from the coast under advance should pass through the various department offices. This will tend to bring kanganies and maistries more into touch with the Superintendents and should also make it easier to keep them to their cooly agreements.

Such are a few of many points that will have to be gone into fully.

As regards cess, I would suggest that there be a minimum all in subscriptions of 1/5—1/8 per acre but that if necessary any Association or group of subscribers be allowed to pay extra for extra services rendered; such extra cess should not give additional voting power.

In conclusion, all Associations whether subscribing to the Labour Department direct or not, would bind themselves to observe certain recognised inter-district labour rules.

Apologising for taking up so much of your space with such unimportant opinions.

Yours etc. ZIG-ZAG.

P.S.—The following estimate of Income may not be far out :—

	Rs.
"All in" subscription on 165 000 acres at 1/5 per acre.	
Tea 83,000 acre, Coffee 45,000 acre Rubber 37,000 acre...	217,000
Extra subscription to Labour Department by say 50,000 acre Tea at 8 annas per acre ...	25,000
Government contribution and sundries ...	45,000
Total...	287,000
With an all in subscription of 1/8 this would be ...	317,000

It may then be possible on this basis to set aside at least Rs. 175,000 for the Labour Department apart from the "general" side, and also without touching the Rubber subscription. Rs. 200,000 would be better still, but this is too good to dream of even.

NOTE: A subscription of Rs. 1/5 and 8 annas per acre as suggested for Tea only means expenditure of ·30 cts. per lb. made tea on a crop of 600 lbs. per acre. Is this not cheap enough?

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chroniele.

Coffee Prices.

Sir,—I shall be glad to know whether it is proposed to discuss measures at the annual meeting of the Association for maintaining, at a fair level, the price of coffee during the coming season. The matter is of vital interest.

My crop last season, all sold on the West Coast, averaged nett, a fraction over 6 annas per lb., although made up of more than 80% of good parchment. I cannot hear of any good parchment being retailed in India at less than Re. 1 per lb., consequently middle men between the producer and the consumer are making profit of a hundred-and-fifty per cent. All other products in India have risen enormously in price during the last three or four years, but our unfortunate staple stands at a reduction of about thirty per cent., compared with pre-war values. I consider this is entirely due to lack of co-operation among planters.

I understood that at the recent conference of coffee planters at Mysore, it was proposed to discuss the desirability of planters and coast firms combining not to sell coming crops of Parchment at less than Rs. 50 per cwt. (little enough when it is retailed at over Rs. 100) and Native coffee at less than Rs. 200 per Mangalore candy; but from the report of the conference in your issue of July 6th, it appears to have been decided that no scheme of alleviation in this all-important matter was considered feasible, and the whole question involving such important financial issues was apparently shelved for want of interest, any way it was dismissed in eight lines of the report: while the question whether coffee planters should pay about two pence half penny a year, more or less, to an "all in cess" seems to have been discussed with absorbing interest.

Is it too late to ask your Association to discuss the matter at the Annual Meeting, and to appoint a Committee to arrange a combination of planters and coast firms to be pledged not to sell coming crops at less than the above mentioned prices, the planters to be pledged to send their crops only to the firms joining the combination? With the worldwide depletion of coffee stocks now available, I am sure we should see buyers tumbling over each other to secure purchases at these limits if possible, instead of the sad sight, exhibited last season, of planters indulging in similar gymnastics in their desire to sell their crops at any price. If the coast firms will hold weekly auctions, putting up available supplies at upset prices of Rs. 50 per cwt. for Parchment, and Rs. 200 per Mangalore candy for Native (Havre Standard.) I am convinced that even better prices than the above will be averaged.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY HART.

Bangalore July, 31st, 1918.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Secretary U. P. A. will be in Madras from Tuesday, 13th August, until and after the Annual Meeting. He will feel much obliged if correspondents will excuse a short delay in receipts of answers.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, has returned from his tour in Malabar.

We publish an article from the Scientific Department on Coffee Soils and Manuring.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, contributes an article on Sugar as a Coagulant for Hevea Latex.

We publish an extract from the Minutes of the Quarterly General Meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association and note that Mr. J. R. Vincent and Mr. Edwin Vincent will attend the Annual Meeting, U. P. A. S. I. as Delegates.

We also publish the Quarterly General Meeting of the North Mysore Planters' Association, at which Messrs. C. H. Browne and C. H. Godfrey were elected Delegates to the Annual Meeting, U. P. A.

Also the Proceedings of a General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association, and the Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Nilgiri-Wynaad Planters' Association.

Our correspondence columns contain letters from a "Nilgiri Member" on the N. P. A Split and from "That's what" and "True Issues."

The remainder of this issue is taken up with copies of correspondence from the Tea Commissioner in India.

Mrs. Anstead has written to ask us to thank Mr. and Mrs. Raymond of Allicutty, Coorg, Mr. and Mrs. Bake of the Nilgiris, Mr. C. H. Browne, and Mr. J.S. Nicolls for the books, magazines and papers they have so kindly sent in answer to her appeal and to assure them they have been very much appreciated. With the addition of the books sent from Yercaud, she has been able to supply over one thousand illustrated papers week by week to the Hospitals: and though extremely thankful for past contributions, like Oliver Twist she begs for more.

Notices have been sent out that the General Committee of U. P. A. will meet at 9-30 a.m. and that the opening meeting will take place at 2-45 p.m., at the Bank of Madras Buildings, Mount Road.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Coffee Soils and Manuring.

In reply to a correspondent with reference to the lecture delivered on this subject at the Coffee Planters' Conference held at Mysore on 1-2 July, I would point out that plants are composed of ten chemical elements, each one of which is absolutely essential to their growth and formation. If one is absent, or cannot be obtained by the plant, though all the others may be available in abundance, the plant will die. Only two, carbon and oxygen, are secured from the air by all plants, only one, hydrogen, from water. The other seven are secured by all plants from the soil. One class of plants, the legumes, may under suitable conditions obtain their nitrogen from the air. Six elements, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron and sulphur, are obtained entirely by the growing plant from the soil.

The great majority of agricultural soils contain large quantities of all these essential elements, with the exception of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. These elements are used by the growing plant in larger quantities than are any of the other elements, which are obtained direct from the soil, and in the great majority of soils nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium is the limiting factor in crop production.

The quantity of these elements in the soil originally is reduced with each crop removed. Nitrogen is removed by most plants in the largest quantities, and large quantities of it are lost by leaching, while the loss of the others is comparatively small.

The total quantity of these three elements found in an acre of soil one foot deep, assuming that this weighs 3,600,000 lbs., in the two types of soil discussed in my lecture is the following:—

	A.	B.
Nitrogen	7568	9000 lbs.
Potash	9000	6120 lbs.
Phosphorus	3960	5040 lbs.

Now according to Hughes an acreage crop of Coffee giving seven cwts. of parchment per acre removes annually, assuming that the leaves are returned to the soil.

Nitrogen	14·3 lbs.
Potash	18·1 lbs.
Phosphorus	2·8 lbs.

So it would appear on the face of it that these soils contain sufficient plant food to carry on for a very large number of years. But much of the Potash and Phosphorus is in an insoluble form in which the Coffee cannot obtain it. That which is available to the Coffee is far less. It is in fact—

	A.	B.
Potash	1440	360 lbs.
Phosphorus	216	540 lbs.

Hence at the rate calculated soil of type A. would be exhausted of Phosphorus in about 12 years and of type B. of Potash in about 20 years, and these elements are the limiting factors of productivity in these two types of soil.

This is of course only a very rough estimate since the crop varies and moreover the Potash and Phosphorus gradually become available each year, but it indicates why manuring is found necessary as a general principle, and explains why an uncultivated and unmanured Coffee estate so rapidly degenerates even though apparently the soil may appear to contain in bulk lots of plant food. Other factors come in of course, I am only speaking here on very broad lines.

When the question of Lime is considered there is ample Lime in both types of soil to actually supply the needs of the Coffee for this element for many hundreds of years, and Lime is not applied to the soil as a plant food at all, but for its effect on the tilth of the soil, to neutralise acidity and to make the soil a suitable medium for the nitrifying and ammonifying bacteria.

It is necessary to apply nitrogenous fertilisers from time to time, because this element is lost rapidly by leaching as nitrate and it is this element which, as a rule, becomes deficient first. In the case of Coffee soil this contingency is not so likely, because it is constantly being supplied by the decomposing leaves of the shade trees, which form a constant mulch. In Coffee soils in South India it is usually the Phosphorus which is likely to be the limiting factor and sometimes the Potash. Hence the necessity of including Phosphatic fertilisers in any system of manuring and occasionally dressings of Potash.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

Science and Rubber Planting.

A paper was read last week on the above subject at the Royal Society of Arts by Dr. J. Bretland Farmer, F. R. S., Professor of Botany, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. He pointed out that unless we succeed in properly and intelligently harnessing the natural forces, and in manipulating the natural material basis for the plantation rubber, it may well happen that the chemist will discover how to bring about, on a commercially paying scale in the factory, what the rubber plant effects within its own body—the production of caoutchouc. If the Chemist ever does this on a successfully competitive scale, the planting industry will have itself to thank for the closing down of the plantations. The raw materials, chiefly carbonic acid and water, are available everywhere, and are abundantly at the disposal of the plant, while the sunlight which drives the living machinery is free to utilise. Professor Farmer believes that if the planting industry fails to keep uppermost in a competition where the rival is handicapped with relatively costly raw materials, it will be due to a short-sighted reliance on defective or depreciated plant, and possibly to unimproved vital machinery which is not being economically driven by the sun's energy. In other words, to a neglect of disease and to a lack of breeding better strains of rubber plants.

Diseases.—On the subject of diseases, Dr. Farmer made some grave declarations. He asserted that you cannot grow a huge, and practically continuous, acreage of any species, especially under tropical conditions, without a constantly present risk of the incursion and rapid spread of animal or vegetable pests, and in disease it is during the earlier stages, before it has got a big hold on the crop, that it can be most hopefully combated.

It is not in the slightest degree probable that the planter will have peace from the attacks of fresh, and as yet unknown, pests. The history of plant pathology contains many records of fungi and other organisms which, from apparently relatively harmless antecedents, break out as violent parasites, whenever they find suitable host plants, which are constitutionally unable to keep them at bay. It must be remembered that these lower organisms produce countless hordes of spores or germs, which are, moreover, easily distributed very widely, and if any of them happen to fall on an appropriate nidus, such as a suitable plant not specially protected, they will almost inevitably force an entrance with, it may be, disastrous results if timely measures are neglected.—*India Rubber Journal.*

SUGAR AS A COAGULANT FOR HEVEA LATEX.

Eaton and Grantham (1) found that if Hevea Latex is allowed to stand in tall cylinders without the addition of any coagulant a slimy alkaline surface scum is formed, whilst the lower layers become acid and coagulation occurs in them. The surface changes are putrefactive in character and are brought about by organisms, which are favoured by aerobic conditions.

The changes in the deeper parts of the liquid were considered by the authors to be due to the activity of aerobic organisms. Both classes of bacteria were supposed to infect the latex after collection from the trees.

Whitby and Campbell showed that coagulation is not due to bacteria but to an enzyme, but that the putrefactive changes are due to bacteria, which, by producing an alkaline medium, may destroy the enzyme and arrest coagulation in favour of putrefaction. Barrowcliff (2) brought forward a large amount of evidence to support this theory of coagulation and show that it was due to a specific enzyme.

In order to eliminate to some extent the predominence of the putrefactive changes and encourage the non-putrefactive ones, cane sugar and glucose were added to latex and it was found that with each of these complete coagulation was obtained and putrefactive changes were inhibited. With pure crystalline dextrose it was fouad that as small a quantity as 0·2 per cent. calculated on the latex, was sufficient to bring about complete coagulation within 18 hours. and this coagulation took place most readily in closed vessels filled with latex so as to exclude the presence of air. The dextrose was completely decomposed and the coagulum was full of bubbles of carbon di-oxide. Similar results were obtained with cane sugar, lactose, arabinose, mannose, and laevulose.

Subsequent experiments showed that it the temperature was kept low, below 40 °-50 ° F., coagulation was inhibited, but if the temperature was allowed to rise to 84 ° F. coagulation became complete.

At a time when there was a shortage of Acetic Acid it was suggested in the F. M. S. that cane sugar might be used as a substitute. A number of experiments were carried out in Java and the result of trials made at the Central Rubber Station for testing was that the difference between rubber coagulated by acetic acid and that coagulated by sugar were insignificant. (3). Tensile strength, slope and viscosity are nearly always the same, but in the rate of cure a small difference is generally found, the sugar coagulated rubber curing slower or quicker as the case may be. (4).

This means that with a running sale contract the change from acetic acid to sugar would nearly always mean a change in the rubber delivered which, unless warning was given, must be considered undesirable.

On this point Dr. O.de Vries (5) issues a word of warning, namely not to change the coagulant before being convinced that it will not change the quality of the product. He points out that a new coagulant may often influence the rate of cure and so inflict serious losses on manufacturers and again awake their former distrust of plantation rubber. Manufacturers are now accustomed to certain characteristics in plantation rubber and have arranged their treatment accordingly. A change in these characteristics without warning would be the cause of great trouble to them. A conservative policy is therefore advised by de Vries who thinks that no change should be made before the peculiarities of the new coagulant have been thoroughly investigated. Every planter's ideal should be to sell his rubber under his own trade mark, by preference to one and the same buyer. This would be the surest way to fetch the highest prices and to obtain the best market. It

will be obvious that such a customer would not be at all pleased at receiving unexpectedly a lot of rubber of different quality.

In general, however, and for the open market, the small difference in rate of cure can form no objection to sugar coagulated rubber. The difference is well within the limits which are generally found for ordinary first latex crepe. In three series of experiments the uniformity from day to day was not less with sugar coagulation than with the ordinary acetic acid coagulation.

The advantages and disadvantages of sugar as a coagulant may be summed up as follows :—

The great advantage is the cheapness of the material as compared with Acetic Acid especially at the present time, while moreover it is always available in the country and does not depend upon shipping facilities. The quantity required is very small, 0.1 to 0.2 per cent of sugar calculated on the latex, or one part of sugar to 500 parts of latex.

The disadvantages are first of all that it produces a product which differs slightly in rate of cure from acetic acid coagulated rubber necessitating in the case of contracts a warning of the change to the buyers.

Another objection is that the coagulum is apt to be full of gas bubbles due to the evolution of carbon di-oxide during the coagulation process and sheet rubber suffering from this defect is looked on with disfavour in the market although the actual quality of the rubber is not affected by the presence of the bubbles. If crepe is being made the bubbles of course do not matter, but sheet is chiefly made now.

Probably any drastic change in methods of coagulation likely to be adopted in the near future will tend towards what is known as the M. C. T. process in which no coagulant is used at all, and by means of which a standard rubber can be made whatever the source of the latex. (6).

This process is based on the fact that in *closed vessels* latex coagulates completely without the addition of any coagulant and without putrefactive changes taking place. As carried out in practice large cement tanks, provided with heavy water sealed lids, are used. Into these the bulked latex is poured leaving the smallest possible air space above it. To each 100 gallons of latex a quantity of calcium acetate equivalent to 4 oz. of calcium may be added if desired to accelerate the process. The covers are placed in position and sealed and the whole is left undisturbed for three days when coagulation is complete. The resulting coagulum is converted into crepe in the usual way.

For the manufacture of sheet iron pressure vessels are used divided into partitions with aluminium sheets, and the coagulation takes place under a pressure of one or two atmospheres, which keeps the carbon di-oxide evolved in the process in solution and the resulting coagulum is free from bubbles and can be made into sheet.

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3. Gorter and Swart. Mededeelingen Rubber proefstation West Java. 6. Ag. Bull. F. M. S. V (1916) p. 48.
4. Monthly Bulletin of Agl. Intelligence, Rome. VIII 10 (1917) p. 1421.
5. India Rubber Journal. LII 21. p. 744.
6. Barrowcliff. Jour. Soc. Chem. Industry. XXXVII 6. p. 95T.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Mundakayam Planters' Association.

Extract from the Minutes of the Quarterly General Meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association, held at the Club, on Saturday, 6th July, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. R. Vincent (Chairman) G. H Danvers Davy, R. W. B. Gompertz, Ashton Hamond, R. G. Hutson, H. M. E. Howson, H. B. Kirk, W. Lyndon, H. B. McPherson, N. D. Pollock, S. P. Peckover and Edwin Vincent (Honorary Secretary). *Visitor.*--Rev. J. H. Osmaston.

The Election of Mr. R. W. B. Gompertz, private member, was confirmed.

(1) The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman drew attention to that part of the Minutes dealing with the Cooly Chattram. The Honorary Secretary said he regretted that Government had not yet granted a site. He was in communication with the authorities and hoped shortly to settle this matter.

(2) The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of June 15th were then considered and it was decided to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting, after the U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting, to consider the question of Incorporation, and to confirm these Minutes which deal almost entirely with that subject. The part of the Minutes relating to Income Tax as it affects Tea Estates was confirmed.

(3) Election of Delegate to the U. P. A. S. I. Annual General Meeting. The Meeting was unanimous that the Chairman—Mr. J. R. Vincent—should represent the Mundakayam District. Mr. Vincent having briefly thanked the members said he would like to see a second delegate elected as he, the Chairman, would be going to Madras in any case for the Meeting which would be a most important one. Mr. Edwin Vincent was asked to go as co-delegate and promised to do so if possible. Failing this Mr. Ashton Hamond consented to consider the possibility of accompanying Mr. J. R. Vincent.

(4 & 7). The Agenda of the U. P. A. S. I. (4) and the Instructions to delegates (7) were then taken together.

(5) THE RUBBER PLANTERS' CONFERENCE.—The Report of the Conference was laid on the table, and the Honorary Secretary proposed that this Association accord a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. J. S. Nicolls for having presided, to the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr. McRae, and Dr. Barker, for their attendance, and to the members of the Cochin Club for the use of their large dining room.

Mr. Howson proposed thanks to the Chairman and Honorary Secretary for the work they had done in connection with the Conference. The two proposals were unanimously accepted.

(6) THE RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE U.P.A.S.I.—The discussion of this important subject ended in the Honorary Secretary being instructed to write to the *Planters' Chronicle* and to all Honorary Secretaries stating the present position of the M. P. A. towards the U. P. A. S. I. re-organization scheme,

and outlining its opinions with regard to the pamphlet recently issued from Coimbatore, to prevent misunderstanding of the Mundakayam Planters' Association's views.

(8) TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The Honorary Secretary read Mr. Richardson's letter of 6th June and letters to Government of 10th and 28th June. The Honorary Secretary pointed out that the seat was not necessarily a Planting Member's seat but a non-Official European seat, and that it had been held by Commercial men in the past. (*e.g.*, Mr. D. G. Cameron). The Association agreed that Mr. J. R. Vincent's name be suggested as a suitable candidate. Mr. Edwin Vincent proposed "That this Association place on record its deep appreciation of Mr. J. A. Richardson's services to the Community on the Travancore Legislative Council and regrets he cannot see his way to continue his work on the Council."—Carried.

(9) The Association Accounts were placed on the table and the new system examined by the Auditors. The Association thanks Mr. J. L. Henderson for his services in this direction.

(10) THE S. I. PLANTERS' WAR FUND.—The Honorary Secretary explained the present position and the Chairman pointed out that he thought the amount Mr. Murphy originally aimed at having now been passed the fund might very well be wound up. Mr. Kirk agreed as the number of men likely to need help would not be great. Finally on the suggestion of the Honorary Secretary, it was decided that the delegates to the U. P. A. S. I. meeting should enquire into the matter and suggest that the fund be wound up on the 31st December, 1918 or upon its reaching an amount which the Committee may decide upon as being necessary.

(11) CORRESPONDENCE.—Read letter from Mr. Hamond regarding Tea Lead and it was decided to approach the U. P. A. S. I. in the matter.

The date and place of next meeting were fixed for Saturday, October 5th, 1918 at the Mundakayam Club.

The Meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) J. R. VINCENT,
Chairman.

(„) EDWIN VINCENT,
Honorary Secretary.

North Mysore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Quarterly General Meeting held at Balehonnur, on the 10th July, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. C. Danvers (President), C. H. Godfrey, R. G. Foster, C. H. Browne, C. S. Crawford, F. W. Hight, and W. H. Reed (Honorary Secretary).

Chairman :—Gentlemen, before proceeding with the business of the meeting I have to announce the recent death of one of our members, Mr. Thomas Hunt, who has been our President and who always took an interest in Association work—and to suggest that the Honorary Secretary be asked to express to Mrs. Hunt the deep sympathy of our members with her in her loss.—Passed in silence, all members standing.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—Mr. Godfrey spoke on the Proceedings of the Mysore Meeting, and after some discussion the following resolutions were passed :—

(1) VOTING IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—Mr. Godfrey proposed and Mr Foster seconded "That in the Executive Committee the voting shall be on a personal basis and shall be confined to the Chairman and the three Industries Representatives. The Planting Member being an Ex-officio Member *without votc.*

(2) MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—Mr. Godfrey proposed and Mr. Foster seconded " That the Executive Committee of the U. P. A. S. I. shall consist of the Chairman, Planting Member (both ex-officio) and three members one each to represent Rubber. Tea and Coffee who shall be annually elected by the General Committee at the same time as the foregoing are elected three other such representatives shall be elected as " Members-in-waiting " of the Executive Committee—such Members-in-waiting shall be served with notices of all meetings and the agenda of such meetings, but no other papers—and may attend such meetings at their own expense and without the right to vote or to speak except in support of their own industry's first Member.

(3) Mr. Danvers proposed and Mr. Browne seconded, "That considering the average position of coffee, and the desirability of inducing all the community to combine in a powerful Association, the N.M.P.A. are of opinion that a subscription of Re. 1 on coffee, cardamoms etc. should be levied, and that the voting be on an acreage basis.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—Mr. Danvers proposed and Mr. Reed seconded "That one member of a Bank, Controlling Planting Agencies, or Firms in any way connected with planting be eligible as a member on a personal vote and a subscription of Rs. 15 and that their election be left to the General Committee. In the case of Planting Agencies 75% of their acreage should be on the District Association.

GUARANTEED SUBSCRIPTION.—It was agreed that subscriptions be guaranteed for a period not exceeding five years.

ELECTION OF PLANTING MEMBER.—This was left to the discretion of the Delegates.

INCORPORATION OF ASSOCIATIONS.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to get more information on the subject.

FIXING PRICES FOR COFFEE.—The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Browne and seconded by Mr. Reed, " That Messrs. Godfrey, Lake and Hayward be requested to form themselves into a committee, with power to add to their numbers, and prepare a scheme by which a fair price for the coming season's crops may be obtained—this Association to pay its proportion of necessary expenses."—Carried.

MR. BREMNER'S SILVER JUBILEE.—This Association is of opinion that a purse of £50 be presented to Mr. Bremner by the U. P. A. S. I. in recognition of his long and faithful services, with a suitable address.

REPRESENTATIVE ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—Mr. Hart was elected, second Mr. Norton,

ARMY CONTRACT.—It was agreed that the Army Coffee Purchase Contract should be raffled as done previously.

U.P.A.S.I. DELEGATES.—Messrs Browne and Godfrey were elected to represent this Association at the Annual General Meeting.

DASSARA DELEGATE.—Mr. C. H. Godfrey was elected.

Various letters were read and placed on the table.

(Signed) W. H. REED,
Honorary Secretary.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of General Meeting held at the Mudigere Travellers' Bungalow, on 15th July, 1918.

PRESENT.—Mr. C. Lake, President, Mr. St. John Hunt, Vice-President, Messrs. C. H. Godfrey, J. G. Hamilton, F. M. Hamilton, M. J. Woodbridge, P. Hunt, R. G. Foster, A. Durham, L. P. Kent, C. J. Hayward, Hon. Secretary.

VISITORS.—Lieut. Wiseman and Mr. Campbell Hunt.

The President before opening the meeting said—"Before we commence I will ask you to join in expressing our deep sympathy with Mrs. Thomas Hunt in the sad death of her husband. He formerly lived for many years in this District and his untimely death is a great blow to his many friends here. This was carried all present standing.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

DELEGATES TO U. P. A. S. I. ANNUAL MEETING.—The following were elected :—

Messrs. C. Lake and C. J. Hayward.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MYSORE DASSERAH.—Mr. F. M. Hamilton.

COFFEE PLANTERS' CONFERENCE IN MYSORE.—The President said he proposed to take the chief points brought forward at the Conference to be discussed and put them to the vote of the meeting.

i. All round subscription of Rs. 1-5 per acre for Tea, Rubber, and Coffee.

The meeting voted in favour of this.

ii. Voting of the Planting Member on the Executive Committee of U. P. A. S. I.

The meeting did not consider it desirable that the Planting Member should have the power of voting.

iii. Inclusion of business firms as members of U. P. A. S. I.

The meeting was agreeable to such members being elected with a personal vote.

iv. Incorporation of the S. M. P. A.—After considerable discussion this was not thought to be necessary as a personal guarantee from members was deemed sufficient.

v. Locality of Head Quarters.—In the event of a move being found desirable the meeting was in favour of Madras.

vi. Election of Planting Members.—It was thought advisable that voting should be by ballot as hitherto, and this Association supported the North Mysore Planters' Association's resolution on this matter.

vii. Coffee Cess.—The meeting was unanimously in favour of this proposal.

COFFEE STATISTICS.—It was decided that the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be requested to obtain Coffee export figures monthly, during the season, and circulate same to Associations interested.

FIXING MINIMUM RATE FOR SALE OF PARCHMENT COFFEE.—Mr. Godfrey informed the meeting of the views of the N. M. P. A. on this matter.

The meeting while being in favour of the suggestion as an Ideal, looked with some amusement on the suggestion of the N. M. P. Association that a Committee from the members of the S. M. P. A. be formed to further such Utopian ideas.

EXPORTATION TO AUSTRALIA.—The Honorary Secretary was asked to inquire from Secretary to U. P. A. what steps had been taken as regards resolution *re* prohibition of other than British grown Coffee into Australia.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.—Messrs. A. Durham and W. R. Wright were unanimously elected.

ASSOCIATION RULES.—The following addition to Rule 2 was passed:

The names of all candidates for election must be circulated to all members at least 10 days before the meeting at which the election takes place.

MAN POWER.—The President read out the remarks of the Chairman of the Conference at Mysore on this subject, and after discussion it was decided to send forms to all members to be filled in, stating age, and information as regards the work they are doing, to be forwarded with the names of members of the Association now serving with H. M. Forces to the Secretary, U. P. A.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Honorary Secretary read out correspondence on various matters connected with the Association. The meeting then ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) C. LAKE,
President,
(„) C. J. HAYWARD,
Hon. Secretary.

Nilgiri-Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at the Taluq Office, Gudalur, at 1 p.m., on 31st July, 1918.

PRESENT.—J. S. Nicolls (Chairman), G. A. Rutter, S. C. O'Reilly, R. Fowke, H. Tippetts, and F. W. F. Fletcher (Honorary Secretary).

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER.—The Manager of the Nelliyalam Estate was elected a member of the Association.

ADOPTION OF RULES.—The Rules as framed by the Committee were considered, and adopted with a few alterations.

UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF THE DARKHAST RULES.—Read Correspondence with the Special Settlement Officer. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to inform that Officer that the Association would welcome the application of the Darkhast Rules to all Government lands in the Gudalur Taluq, and is prepared to accept the two modifications set out in his letter of 7th July.

MALABAR COMPENSATION FOR TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS ACT.—After discussion, the following resolution proposed by Mr. Fowke was carried *nem. con.* :—

> "That conditions in the Nilgiri-Wynaad being in all respects similar "to those which obtain in the Wynaad Taluq of Malabar, and "tenants of private janmis in the Nilgiri-Wynaad being in need "of precisely the same measure of relief as was afforded to "tenants in Malabar by the Malabar Compensation for Tenants' "Improvements Act 1900, and for precisely the same reasons, "Government be approached through the U. P. A. S. I. with a "view to the introduction of that Act into the Gudalur Taluq of "the Nilgiri District."

ARRANGEMENTS WITH NILGIRI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—Read correspondence with the Chairman of the Nilgiri Planters' Association. After discussion, it was agreed that the acreage with vote attached of those Estates which belonged to the N. P. A. before joining the N—W. P. A. be surrendered to the former Association for the forthcoming U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, and that in return the delegates to that Meeting appointed by the N. P. A. be requested to represent this Association as well; that after the Meeting the subscriptions to the U. P. A S. I. paid by these Estates be transferred to the credit of the N—W. P. A. as from the 1st July, that being the beginning of the U. P. A. S. I. financial year, and that any balance due by such Estates from 1st January to 30th June, 1919 be paid through the N—W. P. A.; and that the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the N.P.A. be elected honorary members of this Association, the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the N.—W. P. A. being elected in similar manner honorary members of the N. P. A.

STOPPAGE OF GRAIN EXPORT FROM MYSORE.—Read correspondence with the Collector of the Nilgiris. The Chairman informed the Meeting that he had received an assurance from the Secretary to Government Revenue (Special) Department that the report was unfounded.

REVISED DRAFT AGENDA OF THE U. P. A. S. I. ANNUAL MEETING.—This was laid on the table and discussed.

With a vote of thanks to the Deputy Tahsildar for the use of the room the Meeting ended.

(Signed) J. S. NICOLLS,
Chairman.
(„) F. W. F. FLETCHER,
Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

The N. P. A. Split.

Sir,—In the interesting list of questions in your issue of the 27th July, "What's Up" asks, what action have our leaders taken regarding the breaking up of the Nilgiri Planters' Association into two minor bodies? It will be interesting to know what action can be taken, as some of our prominent leaders are themselves involved in the split, having transferred a number of estates under their control to the newly formed Nilgiri-Wynaad Association, while they themselves, I gather, remain members of both. This separation, in a hitherto powerful and united body, was brought about suddenly and unexpectedly without the slightest warning or notice to the N. P. A., which has thus been deprived practically of half its voting power.

It is not as if the Wynaad members had any business grievance, for on the contrary they derived many material benefits by being in the N. P. A., and there are records to show that they appreciated the connection. Of the few remaining estates in the Wynaad that had not hitherto joined, some had already become members this year, and the others were also expected to shortly come in. Somebody has put forward the extraordinary excuse that the separation had been thought of four years ago. It might as well be argued that a robbery is justified because it had been contemplated many years previously! Anyhow, there is no record of any kind in the N. P. A. to show that within the last two or three years the Wynaad members had expressed any wish to secede. Even if they had, why was the disruption brought about suddenly just before a very critical Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I.? It is not as if the Wynaad members suffered any unusual inconvenience in attending Meetings in Ootacamund, for they never once expressed such a feeling, and many of them are frequently to be seen visiting the station on private or other business. In no way can their attendance at the N. P. A. Meetings be said to have caused them any more inconvenience than that cheerfully borne by other members on the outskirts of such places as Kotagiri, Coonoor and Kullacumby. In fact some of the Wynaad estates that still belong to the N. P. A. and others that may yet join it, are situated even further away than those that have seceded. Therefore neither can distance be logically put in as an excuse. If it is neither business grievance, nor travelling inconvenience, what then is the motive underlying this deplorable split? What has caused it, and what is the purpose? Why has such a catastrophe been countenanced by our leaders at the time, to quote "What's Up," they have been, "asking us so frequently to set aside our personal interests and unite for the welfare of the U.P.A.S.I."? We are all asking these questions, and there is widespread resentment and indignation in the Nilgiris. One protest has already been made regarding the cool request to refund annual subscriptions that some of the Wynaad estates had already paid in to the N. P. A.—which it has rightly declined to do. It would be interesting to know whose estates had made this demand. It is however not merely a question of annual subscriptions, but the far more important question of the loss of members, acreage, and especially votes, with the consequent reduction of the status of the Association, which so seriously affects the Nilgiris. The fact that such annual subscriptions had comparatively recently been paid to the N. P. A. is an indication that the secession scheme must also have had a quite recen

origin, as nobody would be so utterly unbusinesslike as to have paid in a whole year's subscription, if he had intended to leave the Association a few days or weeks later.

Any member has of course the right to resign, but due notice is expected of him ; and in the resignation of a large body of men, surely the correct thing to have done, was not only to give proper notice of their intention, but to frankly declare their reasons, and allow an opportunity for the consideration of their position at a Special General Meeting of the N. P. A. But no such opportunity was given, and no regular procedure was followed, and we were entirely uninformed of what was happening. The first the N. P. A. heard of the new Association was an announcement in the *Planters' Chronicle* that it had already been formed, with the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. as its Chairman!

It is hoped others better informed will either correct or supplement the narration of this extraordinary incident, and that measures will yet be found to reunite the regrettable division that has taken place. It may further be a matter worthy the attention of the U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting, as we view with alarm the possibility of any future Association being managed on the principle of divide and govern.

A NILGIRI MEMBER.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

TO THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—In your review of the contents of your issue of 27th July, you write :—

> "What's up" writes on the re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I., and "asks for some comforting information on points he cannot "understand".

I can give him the comfort he needs in respect of his question (c). So far from being detrimental to "the welfare of the U. P. A. S. I.," the new Association has brought into the U. P. A. S. I. a number of properties which were outside the fold, and would have remained outside had this Association not been formed. Conditions in the Nilgiri-Wynaad are quite different from those which obtain on the higher plateau, and a local Association was imperative to deal with them adequately.

"THAT'S WHAT."

31st July, 1918.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Re "Whats up's" letter may I pay him the sincerest compliment I can by adopting his style and asking the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I. and Control Committee the following questions (to be answered in the *P. C.* please) :

(1) Do most individual planters (as opposed to *acreages*—where votes are often controlled) require the Labour Department ?

(2) Why do not the Control Committee agree to the "subscribe-to-what-you-*want*" scheme ?

(3) Is it that they fear insufficient support of the Labour Department, or not ?

(4) Is it a fact that the late Editor of the *Madras Mail* published certain violent criticisms on a letter appearing in the *Planters' Chronicle* and yet has avoided publishing the reply to those unfair criticisms (on a quibble) while also avoiding a candid "Declined with thanks ?"

(5) Did the letter in question "beard" the Control Committee or show them up at all ?

(6) Does the Control Committee really intend to earmark Rs. 40,000 from Rubber subscription for the "Rubber Mycologist Scheme" and if so when will they start spending this sum ?

(7) If not immediately, how will this sum be spent meantime ?

(8) Could not the Rubber planters get a man for themselves ?

(9) There has been much *talk* but can any of this vaunted Re-Organisation take place before the present Labour Department expires ?

(10) If not, must the Rubber planters wait till then for their Mycologist?

(11) If Rubber is to be guaranteed its Mycologist, why should not coffee be guaranteed its "Publicity Department," instead of being asked to tax coffee exporters for funds ?

(12) Why does not Tea (also) demand to be guaranteed a Labour Department costing less than Rs. 4 per acre ?

Being simply interested in "fair play" and fearing that many of the answers to these questions are being "camouflaged" I should feel extremely obliged if clear and concise answers to them are published in the P. C.

This would help bewildered Planters to understand the

"TRUE ISSUES."

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 10201—47 T. C.

From Lieut.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Tea Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller.

Dated the 27th April, 1918.

Gentlemen,—The Food Controller has cabled to me as follows :—

"Quantity on Garden Invoices frequently does not agree with quantity shipped. This is causing considerable confusion here."

I have asked the Food Controller to let me know the marks in whose shipments the discrepancies have occurred, and the steamers by which the chests were carried. In the meantime I would ask you to be so good as to exercise every care that the weight of tea shipped agrees with that entered in the garden invoice.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 15335/78 T.C.

From Lieut.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated the 20th/22nd July, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my Circular letter No. 11473—11515-T.C., dated the 15th May 1918, I beg to circulate for your information and guidance the following cable received from the Food Controller:—

"Number 94 Until all teas under old contract have been shipped "mark on statements whether tea is old or new contract. Essential we "should know what teas shipped under new contract."

In my circular letter—referred to above, I requested that invoices for old contract teas whether of 1917 manufacture, or 1918 teas tendered for delivery under the old (1917) contract terms for excess teas should be marked "1917 (or 1918) teas old contract" and that invoices for 1918 teas tendered under the new contract should be marked for the present "1918 teas new contract." I notice, however, that some shippers have not carried out these instructions, with the result that confusion will possibly arise. I accordingly request that until the end of August next all invoices may be marked as above, and I would ask shippers who have not hitherto marked their invoices as above to inform me to which contract all teas shipped on or after the 1st June last should be allotted.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 15379/87 T. C., dated the 20th/22nd July, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 15401/44T.C.

From Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated the 22nd July, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In connection with the arrangements for the payment of teas tendered to the Food Controller under the new (1918) contract, I have the honour to circulate the following important correspondence for your information and guidance :—

(*a*) Cable dated the 17th instant from the Tea Commissioner for India to the Food Controller :—

"333 Indian Tea Association have asked me to communicate following resolution to you regarding exchange question begins resolved that this meeting confirms attitude adopted by Committee Indian Tea Association London in refusing to accept Food Controllers contention that contract for supply of tea admits of interpretation that shippers are liable for loss in exchange resulting from inability of Exchange Banks to negotiate bills at time of shipment. That in view of Food Controllers attitude Tea Commissioner be asked to inform Food Controller that all shipments of 1918 tea from Indian Controlled Concerns have been and will be effected on distinct understanding that the basis of contract is payment in India in rupees. As in case of 1917 contract shippers will be prepared to assist Government by negotiating bills through Banks but without incurring any liability for loss in exchange ends."

(b) Cable dated the 19th instant from the Food Controller to the Tea Commissioner for India :—

"Number 95 Your 333 shipments of 1918 teas are subject to terms of new contract yet to be agreed but you should inform Locally Controlled Companies that these terms will necessarily include sterling draft as instrument of payment with same priority as other Government purchases named in old contract. This Ministry cannot guarantee rupees."

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 15445/53 T. C. Dated the 22nd July, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore, for information.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India.
Block B—3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 15732/75 T.C.

From Lieut. Col. W. M. Kennedy, C. I. E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated the 29th July, 1918.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to refer to my circular letter No. 10201-47 T. C. dated the 27th April, 1918, asking that care be taken that the quantity of tea shipped agrees with that entered in the garden invoices, and to reproduce for your information and guidance the following extract from letter No. J. W. C/A. E. B.-Tea Section—38550 dated the 10th June, 1918 from the Director of Tea Supplies on this subject:—

"I have to enclose herein copies of various invoices that have been received by various ships. You will see from same what a big difference there is in the grades arriving and the grades on the original garden invoices. These differences in the number of chests of these grades, cause considerable trouble and inconvenience. I have necessity to ask you to be good enough to advise all shippers of the necessity of more accuracy in their shipments.

The weights given by the warehouses are Customs weights. In some cases these weights show this Ministry a gain and in some cases a loss.

I have to inform you that various invoices are coming forward giving particulars which are useless to this Ministry in order to prepare the documents to get the tea into distribution. I have to point out that it is very essential to send invoices forward giving exact particulars as to quantity, net weight grade, and total invoice weight, also to see that the tea shipped especially agrees in every respect, as far as is humanly possible, with the garden invoice.

I have to bring to your notice 2nd instances in the "Warfield" shipment, * * * and * * * The cabled particulars for the * * * Invoice 25, were 109 packages and the invoice received was for 480 packages. The cabled particulars for the * * * were 122 packages, and the invoice received was for 244 packages. The Bills of Lading quantity in each case were for the smaller quantity.

You will appreciate how impossible it is to tell how many of each grade make up the invoice of 109 and 122 packages respectively. I have to inform you that in cases like this, this Ministry has to hold all these teas back from distribution until the tea has been sorted into the grades at the warehouse and the correct list submitted from the warehouse to this Ministry."

"I have also to inform you that a large quantity of invoices are also being received with no ship's name. I have to ask you to inform all shippers that the ship's name should be on each individual invoice."

2. From the copies of the invoices forwarded by the Director, it is clear that there is frequently a considerable difference between the teas as described in the garden invoices and those actually received. I would, therefore, again ask shippers to exercise great care that the teas actually shipped agree as regards number of chests, grades, nett weight etc., with the details given in the garden invoices. I would also ask that the name of the vessel by which the tea has been shipped be entered on all the garden invoices and invoices of cost. When differences such-as-those described occur, it is evident that great confusion must be caused on the arrival of the teas.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 15776/24 T.C., dated the 29th July, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B—3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 16030 T. C.

To
The Secretary,
Indian Tea Association,
Calcutta.

Dated the 1st August, 1918.

Sir,—I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with this office memo No. 15653/54 T. C. dated the 26th July 1918, in regard to the request of your General Committee for information as to whether, with respect to the 1918 contract, it is open to individual tea companies or estates to prove that the increased cost of its manufacture amounts to an additional one farthing or whether such increased cost must be proved in respect of districts or the whole of Northern India. I have now received the Food Controller's instructions on this point, which are to the effect that the excess cost of production would take the form of a flat rate which msut be proved in respect of the whole of Northern and Southern India and not of individual estates.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 16031/38 T. C., dated the 1st August, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 33.] AUGUST 17, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Editorial.

The *Spice Mill* states that there is a considerable amount of uneasiness in Brazil over a widespread rumour that the United States will decide to class coffee as a luxury since the war has practically limited Brazil's market for its vast coffee crop to America.

In 1890 the United States was credited with 42 per cent. of the total world consumption of Coffee and Germany with 22 per cent. and in 1913 the American consumption had risen to 46 per cent. of the total. The fact that people like the Germans and Austrians prefer adulterated coffee has served to stimulate the Brazilian Government to undertake propaganda work in England and elsewhere which has for its object the introduction of the coffee drinking habit.

The Municipal Assembly at the port of Santos is reported to have passed a resolution nominating a Committee of five at the request of the federal and state governments to maintain the security of the coffee market for present and future harvests in case the war continues. This committee will also investigate the storage problem because of the shortage of transportation facilities.

The federal government of Brazil and the coffee growing States of Brazil and especially Sao Paulo are firmly committed to a policy of protectionism with reference to the coffee industry. Indeed the Government of Sao Paulo regards itself somewhat as the special agency through which the coffee planters act collectively in taking protective measures. There is no sacrifice too great for this State to make if only the benefit to the coffee planter is greater than the sacrifice.

Coffee prices at Rio have been lower for the last three years than for several years previous and only slightly above the prices prevailing in the years immediately after the big crop of 1907. The present situation is still unfavourable for the planters. The blockade of the Central Allies is growing more stringent, with the result that less coffee is going to Germany through Scandinavia. The shipping difficulties are increasing and the crop now being harvested is exceedingly large. Reports indicate that it will probably be nearly as great as the record-breaking crop of 1906-1907.

MUNDAKAYAM PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Malcolm Smith, Captain, H. L. I. has been thrice wounded and awarded the M. C.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	72,284	0	0
Mr. A. Yates	100	0	0
Total Rs....	73,384	0	0

TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND DENMARK.

Government of Madras,

Revenue (Special) Department.

ABSTRACT.

Indo-British Trade—

Communicating to the Chambers of Commerce letter from the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 6411, dated 11th July, 1918 forwarding India Office letter No. R. and S./W. T. 2591/18 dated 15th May, 1918 on the subject of—

C. C. Mis. No. 2778 (Special No. 88) dated 25th July, 1918.

Read the following :—

From the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 6411, dated 11th July, 1918.

Order—

Communicated to the Chambers of Commerce.

(True Extract.)

A. R. KNAPP,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

	do	Tuticorin.
	do	Cochin.
Godavari	do	Cocanada.
European	do	Cocanada.
S. I.	do	Madras.

Copy to the Madras Trades' Association, Madras.

do Bank of Madras.

do Director of Industries.

do United Planters' Association of S. India, thro' the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber.

do The Board of Revenue, Separate Revenue.

do The Director of Agriculture.

Forwarded to the United Planters' Association of South India thro' the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber.

(By Order),

K. V. KRISHNA RAMANA IYER,

Superintendent.

30—7—18.

From the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 6411, dated the 11th July, 1918.

I am directed to forward for information and communication to the Chambers of Commerce, the accompanying copy of a letter from the India Office, No. R and S/W. T. 2591/18, dated the 15th May 1918, and enclosures on the subject of trade between India and Denmark.

ENCLOSURES.

From the India Office, London, R. and S./W. T. 2591/18, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce and Industry Department.

I forward for information, copy of the papers noted in the margin on the subject of trade between India and Denmark.

From H M. Minister at Copenhagen, dated 26th April with enclosed memorandum

A copy of the papers has been sent to the Indian Trade Commissioner, London.

No. 800 Commercial.

Copenhagen,
April 26, 1918.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr. Turner, Commercial Attache to His Majesty's Legation, in regard to trade between India and Denmark.

This memorandum was prepared in compliance with a request from Dr, Yusuf Ali who is at present lecturing in Scandinavia, and who expressed a desire to examine the trade relations between India and Denmark with a view to their possible future development.

I have &c.,
(Signed) RALPH PAGET.

The Right Hon'ble A. J. Balfour, O.M., M.P.

MEMORANDUM.

1. The following table shows the Imports into Denmark from India direct as compared with the total imports of similar commodities from all sources in 1913 and 1912 :—

	Imports from British India direct.				Imports from all sources.	
	1913.		1912.		1913.	1912.
	Quantity. 100 Kg.	Value. 1,000 Kr.	Quantity. 100 Kg.	Value. 1,000 Kr.	Quantity. 100 Kg.	Quantity. 100 Kg.
Coconuts and kernels ...	400	25	367	20	1,996	442
Rice Groats & flour ...	1,872	44	841	17	97,389	92,945
Sago Groats & Tapioca ...	508	14	39	1	26,121	19,254
Tea ...	89	21	174	42	5,399	6,227
Cardamoms ...	1,738 Kg	21	1,193 Kg	12	1,301 Kg	21,406 Kg
Other colonial goods ...	—	31	—	30	—	—
Hemp, Indian...	4,746	214	3,165	133	12,747	12,389
Jute ...	800	44	828	33	2,267	2,268
Coconut yarn ..	2,579	101	2,487	90	9,351	9,594
Carpets, &c. ..	78	42	7	6	4,443	4,426
Linseed ...	20,800	443	12,396	377	199,795	117,411
Sesame seed ...	999	36	3,115	84	40,176	25,438
Copra ...	41,242	2,227	63,736	2,677	336,865	265,124
Palm kernels ...	199	8	499	16	5,951	17,730
Other goods ...	—	86	—	4,437	—	—
	...	3,357	...	7,975	...	...

The following table shows the Exports from Denmark to India direct :—

Exports to British India.

	1913.		1912.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	100 Kg.	1000 Kr.	100 Kg.	1000 Kr.
Butter in tins ...	83	23	650	181
Liquors ...	57	15	43	12
Other goods ...	...	92	...	153
	...	130	...	346

3. Taking the most important items in the above tables we find that the total Danish Import in 1913 of rice groats was 6,884 tons, of which 95 tons came direct from British India. The largest imports were from Holland (2,361 tons) and Germany (4,116 tons). Presumably much of the rice imported *via* Germany was of Indian origin, and a direct shipment or *via* the United Kingdom would naturally be more advantageous to British interests.

4. The same applies also to rice flour, the total import of which was 2,854 tons (British India 91 tons, Sweden 839 tons, presumably through the Swedish East Asiatic Company-Holland 835 tons, Germany 1,083 tons).

5. As regards sago groats the total imports of which were 961 tons. the largest imports came from the Straits Settlements (712 tons) Great Britain 159 tons, British India 25 tons, and Germany 42 tons. The Straits Settlements were also the largest exporters of sago flour (1,519 tons) with Great Britian and British India sending 60 tons each.

6. As regards tapioca, the Straits Settlements are also the largest exporters (1,062 tons out of a total import of 1,650 tons), while Great Britain exported 286 tons and British India 25 tons.

7. Great Britain was the largest exporter of tea (418 tons out of a total import of 539 tons), the direct contribution from British India being about nine tons, while 69 tons came from Germany and 28 from China.

8. The import of 1,738 kilos of cardamoms direct from British India, is not a inconsiderable part of the total import (13,010 kilos). From Great Britain 5,422 kilos were imported and from Germany 5,328 kilos.

9. The total import of Indian hemp amounted (in 1913) to 1,274 tons, of which 474 tons came from British India, 331 tons from Germany, 287 tons from the United Kingdom and 116 tons from Italy. There was also a small import of hemp in 1912 which appears to have been replaced the next year by an increased import of that commodity from Germany.

10. The export of 80 tons of jute from British India out of a total of 226 tons would appear to show that the largest supply of this material is obtained direct, the imports from the United Kingdom and Germany amounting respectively to 71 and 68 tons.

11. There was a total import of 935 tons of coconut yarn, 257 tons of which came from British India and 656 tons from Germany.

12. The import of carpets from British India showed a tendency to increase but amounted only to 7 tons out of a total of 444 tons, the largest exporters being Germany with 223 and the United Kingdom with 122. Fifty tons of Oriental carpets were imported from the near East.

13. Out of a total Danish import of 19,979 tons of linseed there came 2,080 tons from British India, 4,605 tons from Germany, 3,333 tons from the United Kingdom, 2,000 tons from the United States of America and 5,063 tons from the Argentine; of sesame seed 99 tons from British India, 2,526 tons from Germany, and 1,162 tons from China; of copra 4,124 tons from British India, 14,354 tons from Germany, 5,100 tons from the Straits Settlements, 4,858 tons from the Dutch East Indies, 3,321 from the Pacific Islands, 1,135 from Siam, and 549 from the United Kingdom. The total import of palm kernels amounted to 595 tons of which 19 came from British India, 312 from Germany, and 179 from Africa.

14. The imports from Germany are (with the exception of carpets and to some extent of hemp) entirely transit trade the bulk of the goods specified having come direct from the transhipment port. Hamburg. For after the war trade it is evident that British interest would best be served if the Danish market were provided with these commodities either direct in Danish bottoms, or by increasing the transhipment trade over the United Kingdom.

15. The two great Danish lines, the East Asiatic and the United Shipping Company, are alive to the advantages of carrying direct as many as possible of the Danish imports that were previously obtained over Germany, and but little encouragement should be needed to induce them to institute a regular service.

16. From the figures given above it will be noticed that the bulk of the imports consist of the raw materials for the manufacture of vegetable oils. It would appear worthy of consideration whether the manufacturing the oils in British India, and exporting the manufactured product, British interests would not obtain a greater benefit, (1) by the economy of tonnage effected and (2) by obtaining the manufacturers' profits, as well as those of the producer. Presumably also the labour in British India would be cheaper, while the British Indian authorities would welcome the additional employment given. For the staple articles mentioned, therefore, the question of increasing the trade from British India to Denmark, is to be solved by either instituting an adequate direct shipping service, or by organising and developing the transhipment trade over the United Kingdom.

17. The Danish Market should for its size take a considerable amount of carpets and decorative textiles from British India, and the same should apply to other articles, more or less of luxury such as Benares ware, artistic pottery, curios, &c. There might also be a market for the Indian hides 'Kips' but I am uncertain how these would compare with (1) the native Danish hides, of which there is a large production, and (2) the hides now imported, In 1913 Denmark imported 1,496 tons of wet-salted

hides (154 tons from Siam). 118 tons of dry salted hides (81 from Germany but the bulk from South America) 41 tons of dried hides (8 of which came from China).

18. It is possible also that a good market might be found in Denmark for the products of British India. In pre-war times the country obtained practically everything in the nature of manufactured articles from Germany (largely owing to British exporters not considering the market large enough to trouble about). German trade was however of course, assisted by the geographical proximity and the general organization of the German export trade.

19. As a general principle it would seem to be of advantage to British trade as a whole, that efforts should be made so far as possible to export manfactured articles rather than raw materials and with this object it would appear advisable that, when the country producing the raw materials is not capable of manufacturing them itself, the raw materials should be exported for manufacture to some other portion of the Empire, rather than to neutrals. The result would be that the Empire would benefit not only by the profits made by the producer but also by the profits made by the manufacturer, and would moreover obtain the indirect advantage of restricting the output of competing manufacturers in neutral countries.

20. As regards Danish exports to British India, it seems unlikely that they can assume any considerable importance. Danish industries are practically speaking in their infancy practically and in view of the fact that all raw materials, including coal, must be imported, are unlikely to develop sufficiently to be of real importance from the point of view of the financial status of the country. The Danish national income is derived mainly (1) from the export of agricultural produce to the United Kingdom, and (2) from the freights earned by Danish tonnage. The values thus gained are employed in purchasing the Danish requirements from the various markets of the world, and the Danish purchases in British India are paid for out of the credits (for agricullural produce) standing to Danish account in London. By arranging for the direct import from British India, or *via* the United Kingdom, it would seem that an economy should be effected as presumably before the war, purchases of British Indian produce *via* Germany, were financed over London, necessitating an additional transfer of funds.

21. It would seem advisable that the large British Indian houses established in London should be encouraged to study the requirements of the Danish market and to organise the trade with a view to excluding the trade done hitherto *via* Germany while developing the market generally. They should bear in mind that the Danish market itself, though small is in proportion to its size a very buying market and above all they should recognise that the Danes themselves are most anxious to see Copenhagen take the Baltic distributing trade hitherto done by Germany with Hamburg as the centre. If these Danish hopes bear fruit even only in part and the position of Copanhagen and the development of the Copenhagen Free Port are both favourable to the realisation of the idea Danish merchants will import not only for Denmark, but also for Norway and Sweden and so far as they can, for Finland and the Russian Baltic ports also.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Report of the Director for the Year ending 30th June, 1918.

As is natural in any useful business, the volume of work turned out by the Department, shows a steady increase in spite of a financial outlook which made it necessary to curtail our activity. Satisfactory progress under all headings was made during the year while keeping well within the estimated expenditure, as the record given below plainly shows. The Estimate sanctioned by the Control Committee was Rs. 200,498-8-0, and the sum actually spent was Rs. 188,174-7-10 which is less than the Estimate by Rs. 12,324-0-2.

The Accounts as audited, show the position on 30th June, 1918.

WORK DONE.

		Previous Year.
The balance of cases brought forward from the previous year was	3733	...
The number of new cases referred to us was ...	5736	5336
Total ...	9469	8102
Cases finally disposed of during the year ...	6016	4258
The number of cases dropped with the consent of subscribers was ..	88	116

PENDENCY.

The balance of cases still running at the end of the year was	3365	3733
CASH RECOVERIES made by the Department and remitted to subscribers amounted to ...	Rs.46,350	Rs.35,950

Two-thirds of which was without having recourse to the Law Courts.

The total is satisfactory, but it does not represent the whole benefit to subscribers, their maistries use the Department as a threat to their defaulters, and get money into their hands which would otherwise be sent to Estates. It frequently happens that a defaulter cannot pay up at once, and a subsequent date is fixed for payment. The Maistry goes a few days previously and accepts something less, giving a receipt in full. On our agents going to get the money, they find the matter settled. It is a standing grievance on their part that they are thus robbed of the credit of the recovery. It leads to friction of course, but this is preferable to collusion. The amount recovered by such means we can never know, but I estimate that it is quite double what we actually handle, and if this is so, defaulters have had to pay up nearly a lakh and forty thousand rupees, owing to the existence of the Department. The benefit to subscribers lies in the fact that so many debtors to maistries no longer escape having to repay.

	Rs.	Previous Year. Rs.
The amount we found to be irrecoverable by any means was	6,654	3,835
Efforts continue to be made with reference to further outstanding sums amounting to ...	56,876	52,117
Total involved	1,09,880	91,892
The percentage of recovery to demand was therefore	41·42%	30·68%

DEFAULTERS.

The number who agreed to return to Estates was.	1,140	892
And of these the number that reached their destinations was	874 or 66%	313 or 35%
Owing	29,306	19,164

If subscribers will kindly see their way to report the return of a dafaulter to their Estates it would save us time and expense in continuing to search for a man who has already returned.

OVERSEAS COMPETITION.

A few cases occurred of Ceylon Kanganies without the knowledge of their employers or of the Agencies responsible for recruiting, sending tin tickets to coolies at work on our Estates, and in a few instances coolies under contract to our subscribers absconded to the coast enroute for other countries. One gang succeeded in landing in Ceylon. All the above were satisfactorily dealt with, with the kind assistance of the Ceylon Labour Commission. Otherwise competition was negligible.

INFORMATION about 2381 maistries, kanganies, and labour suppliers was supplied. I shall say more on this subject under the heading of Registration.

LAGGARDS.		Previous Year.
The number we succeeded in hurrying up was.	1,812	1,773
ASSISTANCE was given to Maistries, Kanganies and labour suppliers	1,587	1,194
The demand for such assistance is increasing.		
WARRANTS.		
The Department helped in the service of Civil processes ...	168	120
Criminal warrants ...	2,116	1,151
Including pending from last year ...	315	...

Last year I mentioned G. O. No. 101 Judicial of the 12th January 1916 of the Government of Madras which had force for 12 months and was renewable if the results were satisfactory. It has been renewed and supplemented by G. O. No. 1074 Miscellaneous of the 21st September, 1917 of the Madras Government. The Government of H. H. The Maharajah of Mysore has during the year kindly issued G.O. No. J 2736-44/C.B. 103-16-14 dated 22nd January 1918.

And with the help of the above, our results have greatly improved.

The following table gives particulars for the official year 1st April 1917 to 30th March 1918.

Districts.	Total warrants.	Satisfactory results.		False names.	Emigrated cases.	Time barred cases.
—	—	This year.	Last year.	—	—	—
Coimbatore ...	754	83%	70%	35	54	20
Trichinopoly ...	39	76%	85%	2	6	...
Madura ...	91	77%	78%	...	16	2
Malabar ...	249	87%	78%	4	22	4
Salem ...	79	87%	73%	...	7	3
Ramanad and Tinnevelly ...	...	...	33%	...	...	...
Kollegal taluq ...	150	64%	56%	24	...	9
Mysore State and Coorg ...	508	60%	45%	55	13	26
S. Canara ...	246	45%	...	...	2	56

All subscribers do not take sufficient interest in the fate of their warrants.

It takes the heart out of our men who are employed on this work, when a defaulter has been arrested twice, the second time with very great difficulty, and the case is dismissed on both occasions because the complainant failed to appear in Court although advised by telegram and letter of the arrest. The object of getting out a warrant in such a case is not apparent.

New Connections.

The closing down of our work in the Ceded Districts renders impossible any increase this year over last in the number of new villages searched for new connections. Our efforts were confined to villages in the other districts in which the number of new villages visited systematically with a sole view to getting new connections was 2,803 against 2,926 last year. I regret we met with no success. In villages where the people were already familiar with the idea of working on Estates, however, we have cause for satisfaction, almost altogether in the Coimbatore Division. Altogether 42 Estates asked for new connection, and 28 of these were supplied with new maistries, sometimes more than one. In the Coimbatore Division 106 introductions were made but this does not mean 106 new men, as the same man declined by one Estate, was introduced to another.

Advertising.

I have nothing new to report. The principles kept in view have been the three points common to all advertisements. To secure (1) Attention. (2) Desire. (3) Action, which have been likened to fishing with (1) A bait (2) A line (3) A hook. Our advertising methods are designed to attract attention, to create desire, and to translate desire into action.

I cannot point to any direct results any more than can some of the greatest advertisers in the world, who have nevertheless proved that a reduction in advertising is a great mistake. So in spite of want of proof of any direct benefit, we continue to advertise on the lines generally accepted as correct.

Restriction of Advances.

The year was a very difficult one in which to keep down advances, and no improvement was possible.

Registration.

The total number of maistries, kanganies and labour suppliers registered in the offices of the Department now amounts to 6,147. The total number of Labour Suppliers, Maistries, and Kanganies sent in to the Department by Subscribers as being employed on their Estates in 1914 when we first started, is only 2,441, as given in the Alphabetical list circulated in 1916. I may safely say that nearly every man mentioned in our voluminous correspondence, and some others besides, has been registered and indexed. The Department is therefore in a position to give information it would be impossible to get from any other source reliably or so quickly. A large number of villages have been indexed also in such a manner that all those engaged in recruiting for subscribers Estates residing in each village can be seen at a glance. This was originally started as a convenience to officers of the Department, but it has proved of greater use than was expected.

The number of finger prints classified or indexed is now 4,529, the majority being those of coolies. Of this total, 1,922 were new during the year under report.

PAYMENTS.

We continue to make payments on behalf of subscribers to maistries and others to suit their convenience.

WARNINGS.

Eight circulars containing the names of 38 men who should not be advanced by subscribers were issued during the year. During the last two years the necessity for issuing these circulars has greatly decreased owing to development of our Registers. The professional advance-taker and swindler is driven to exploit other fields than those of our subscribers, or to abandon business.

GENERAL.

Coolies during the season under report have been scarce and late. Maistries have made an excuse of the Military Recruiting operations but with hardly any justification. It is true that no recruiting organisation of so extensive and intensive a character has existed before in South India, but no one can take exception to it on the score of want of sympathy for the industries and agricultural necessities of the country.

We all realise the necessity of securing both combatants and non-combatants for the war, and must be prepared for this form of sacrifice if called upon as well as in other forms. I know from the actual working of the organization that it has resulted in only a few cases of hardship, and in every case which I have had to bring forward I have been met in every way that was at all possible. The real reason both for the shortage and lateness of labour is the cotton crop especially the extension of the comparatively new cambodia variety and the high wages paid for harvesting it. With the prices ruling for cotton, cultivators of that crop have been able to afford wages to coolies in or near their own villages quite equal to those paid by ourselves. High advances have been given in some instances to induce coolies to leave this work and go to Estates. In all probability this has aggravated the trouble, for the notoriously improvident cooly does not see any necessity to seek work away from home, when he has plenty of money to spend. He seeks work when his substitute for a pocket is empty. Other work that has demanded labour round villages is the ground-nut crop, which has grown in favour in districts where it received little attention before. Factories of various sorts are also on the increase.

A report on the year's work may perhaps not be the proper place for a forecast, but I take it as an opportunity to state the belief which is shared by all of us in a position to judge, that Labour difficulties are on the increase. The difficulties experienced this year are not temporary. Conditions in villages have changed, and continue to change. The altered conditions cannot properly be met by individual Estates, or individual districts taking a line of their own leading to a game of cut-throat. A spirit of co-operation and combination is necessary to a far greater degree in labour matters than has heretofore been evident. It is the U. P. A. S. I. working unitedly that offers the best chance of meeting future troubles.

For the present Labour Department, the Chairman, the Planting Member, and other members of the Control Committee have devotedly given time and taken trouble beyond expression. The Secretary has continued to get in money for the Department in a manner more than praiseworthy. To all the above, and including our subscribers to whose forbearance and kindness I owe so much, I offer my sincere thanks.

AYLMER Ff. MARTIN,

Director.

"HOW TO PAY FOR THE WAR."

By H. Hamel Smith.

Tropical Life, London.

Speaking on Whit Monday in his presidential address to the Congress of the National Union of General Workers, Mr. J. R. Clynes, M. P., said "that although the burning desire of all should be to prevent any continuance of the War longer than was required . . . . negotiations for peace were impossible until unmistakable signs were given by Germany that the principles for which we were fighting were to take the place of the doctrine of force, upon which Germany relied" . . . and . . . "we ought to safeguard our food supplies by giving all reasonable encouragement to home producers . . ."

If it is necessary to give all reasonable encouragement to home producers, it is still more important for this country to safeguard its supplies and needs of food and raw materials from abroad for after the War, when our demands will far exceed those of 1914, in the same way as that year's requirements shot ahead of those in 1908.

Knowing this caused us to agree to publish "How to Pay for the War," which, runs roughly into 250 pages, carries six cartoons by Mr. Jack Walker, and costs 5*s*. *plus* 5*d*, or 6*d*. for postage. The index shows that there are nine sections and twenty-eight chapters. If paper had not increased to about six times its pre-war costs, the price of the book would probably have been half-a-crown, and still left more crumbs behind in the shape of profit than will now be the case with the price advanced to five shillings.

Everyone is anxious to see even the present cost of the War recouped, much more so the final cost and the obligations that will descend upon us to finish it, and also to place out the returned soldiers and find a living for all, able and disabled. All these points are discussed between the covers of the book, and apologies made for not going more fully into the matter, space, *i.e.*, the cost of paper alone preventing the book having its full say. Trusting that, in view of the importance of the subjects dealt with, you will be able to find space in the columns of your valuable paper to call attention to the book, we would ask you to take note of the following as being likely to interest you the most :—

(1.) The proposals discussed in the Introduction, in Chapter I and elsewhere, of Mr. Wilson-Fox, M. P., and the Empire Resources Development Committee, whose proposals caused the book to be published.

(2). The attitude of some of the leading Socialists towards the conscription of the wealth of the few, whilst the book urges the conscription of the goodwill, brains, and energy of the entire Empire.

(3). The "pull" that the wire pullers, trade unions, and other large vote-carrying concerns have on this side, where the laws are made, over the Empire-building pioneers, the planters, and developers of the Empire's wealth overseas, who have no vote and no control over their own destiny so long as they remain abroad. How, in order to fully develop the latent resources of

the Empire, equal educational chances of an Imperial character must be given to all classes. As is stated on p. 31, "In our Imperial development scheme, every man who means to get on shall get on."

(4). The need of appointing a Minister of Empire Production and Wheat Supplies, if possible with Cabinet rank.

(5). Why we must increase the output per worker per annum, and also per acre in use by employing up-to-date measures and machinery, &c.

(6). Why we must establish Agricultural Colleges and Institutes of Science and Research in the Tropics, especially outside India.

(7). The need of developing India.

(8) Why we must stop assisting Germany to obtain the bulk of her wealth *by being carried on the back of the British Empire*, as German experts own has been the case.

(9) Ex-President Roosevelt, Count Ilya Tolstoy, and post-war trade between the Allies and Russia. This is one of the most important sections of the book as international affairs stand to-day. This is why the Foreword urges every one, as the London Press has done since the book went to the binders, to frame a definite answer to the tremendous question *What is to be done with Russia?* Upon the solution of this question the future course of the world's history will depend to a considerable degree, especially with regard to our ability to check Germany from filtering *via* Russia to the East, to gain access to Afghanistan, to stir up India, and generally, if allowed, to hold Russia in her grip, to dominate politics in the East. All this can happen if Russia is left derelict, therefore the author, in the Foreword, warns the Allies of the danger of turning their back on Russia, whilst in the book itself he shows how, in helping Russia, we shall help ourselves and the cause of the Allies.

(10). The attitude of the A. S. E. (Amalgamated Society of Engineers), the I. W. W., and other Trade Unions, and its effect on the development of the Empire.

(11). The establishment of Home Colonies and ex-soldiers' settlements and homesteads in the Tropics and elsewhere.

(12). The value, from an Imperial point of view, of the working classes in the Tropics as compared with those in England and the relative right of each to strike.

(13). The *pros* and *cons* of Prussianism as compared with Anglo-American ideas for Democracy.

(14). The insurmountable obstacle to a rational and speedy development of the resources of the Empire that our present system of education is certain to prove.

(15). The question of finance, and of giving all real workers a chance to secure the capital as well as the training necessary to fully develop the latent resources of the Empire with which to "Pay for the War."—*Published by Balls Ltd.*, 83/91, *Gt. Titchfield, St. Oxford St., W. I.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

To The Editor,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Sir,—I am quite sure that all readers of the report on the answers to the Circular sent out by the Chairman will agree that in this report we have got "real efficiency," and we must congratulate the Secretary on the result. Just think of the time required to work out all those details and we value it accordingly. I somehow do not think that the next report on the last Circular sent out by some leading Planters, will entail so much work, still it will be interesting to hear the percentage of replies sent in ?

Now what I should like to know.—Is the present work of the Labour Department, we will take the Coimbatore Division, as efficient as this report is, and would Subscribers not have benefitted more had the time taken to work out this report been devoted to their interests in the Villages where their Maistries and coolies are recruited from ? I am quite sure that some anyhow would have been better pleased, and perhaps have felt more inclined to join the future Department had this been so.

It is a very excellent idea to "put a house in order," as I take it this work is to help to put our future "house in order," but meanwhile, is the present house for which we still pay Rs. 2 per acre to be kept in order ?

"I don't think."

Mundakayam,
5—8—18.

The Editor,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Coimbatore.

Coffee Cess.

Dear Sir,—*Re* the draft leaflet over Mr. Anstead's signature in your issue of July 27th, (which I have not had time to tackle earlier), may I point out five reasons *against* the proposed cesss and then the obvious remedy.

1. To begin with the cess would *not* be "fair" as it would *not* be born "equally," since the enterprising few (who ship *out* of the country) are to be penalized to help the slackers.

2. Any tax on *exports* will *tend* to *diminish* those exports, and hence to add to the congestion of the market. Surely this is the *opposite* of what is required—a tax on *the local sales* (for propaganda to push *local* sales) being obviously more equitable.

3. This, I take it, is liable to prejudice Indian Planters, and so the only alternative is to ask Government to levy a tax (import duty) on *all foreign coffee coming in to India.* That would *relieve* the market and help the local article doubly, *without* raising the price to the consumer, *unless* India really consumes more coffee than is provided here. That appears to be a possible remedy.

4. Is it not generally admitted that shipping "facilities" will be the opposite of "facile" for some time after Peace ?

5. Is this not the scheme brought up at the Coffee Conference? If so, since that "Conference" was *not* fully representative is it justifiable to say "The European Coffee Planters *are willing*, &c."

Personally I am willing to pay if *all* pay, else I am unwilling to be taxed *to help others.*

Yours faithfully,
R. W. B. GOMPERTZ.

P. S.—If shipping facilities continue to be as bad as they are at present, no funds will be forthcoming from the cess, until space *is* available for coffee and in this way the most valuable time for advertisement *i.e. now* (not "narlikie") will be wasted. As this also applies to a levy on *imports* the only alternative seems to be a smaller levy *on all coffee produced in India.*

R. W. B. G.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India.
Block B—3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 16331/75 T. C.

From Lieut. Col. W. M. Kennedy, C. I. E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated the 7th/8th August, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 15401/44 T.C., dated the 22nd ultimo, regarding the method of payment of the value of teas shipped to the Food Controller by Locally Controlled Concerns under the new (1918) contract, I have the honour to reproduce below cable number 102, dated the 6th instant from the Food Controller on this subject:—

"Number 102. Your 348. In case of Locally Controlled Concerns "payment will be made in full by sterling draft with priority as stated in "contract to produce necessary rupees at Rate of Exchange of the day but "if Exchange has advanced before bill can be negotiated, Ministry will "carry a further loss on Exchange, provided drawers prove inability to "negotiate draft earlier and that this liability shall not extend beyond a "period of one month from date of shipment. Understand these conditions "likely to be accepted by Indian Association in London. Meanwhile refuse "accept Indian Controlled teas if unwilling agree foregoing."

Concerns not willing to accept these terms should not tender any further teas for shipment to the Food Controller, and all teas accepted by me will be accepted on the understanding that the shippers agree to these terms.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 34.] AUGUST 24, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting.

19—24th August, 1918.

CHAIRMAN	...	MR. J. S. NICOLLS.
VICE-CHAIRMEN	...	MR. C. E. ABBOTT. MR. P. G. TIPPING.
PLANTING MEMBER OF COUNCIL	...	THE HON'BLE SIR FAIRLESS BARBER.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, PLANTING DISTRICTS	...	MR. R. D. ANSTEAD, M.A.
DIRECTOR, LABOUR DEPARTMENT	...	MR. A. FF. MARTIN.
SECRETARY	...	MR. F. NORTON.

Delegates.

Anamalai P. A.	... Messrs. J. E. SCOTT & C. R. T. CONGREVE.
Bababudin P. A.	... Mr. H. KERR.
Central Travancore P.A.	... Messrs. J. A. RICHARDSON, D. MCARTHUR, & H. C. WESTAWAY.
Coorg P. A.	... Messrs. P. G. TIPPING & E. L. MAHON.
Kanan Devan P. A.	... Messrs. W. A. LEE, H. L. PINCHES, & A. J. WRIGHT.
Nilgiri P. A.	... Messrs. A. S. DANDISON & A. K. W. DOWNING.
North Mysore P. A.	... Mr. C H. GODFREY.
Shevaroy P. A.	... Messrs. S. M. HIGHT & E. TRAVERS DRAPES.
South Mysore P. A.	... Messrs. C. LAKE & C. J. HAYWARD.
South Travancore P. A.	... Messrs. J. MACKIE, C. HALL & J. B. COOK.
West Coast P. A.	... Messrs. A. H. MEAD, S. P. EATON, & E. HALLILEY.
Wynaad P. A.	... Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
Mundakayam P. A.	... Messrs. J. R. VINCENT & EDWIN VINCENT.
Nilgiri-Wynaad P. A.	... Messrs. A. S. DANDISON & A. K. W. DOWNING.

Agenda.

1. Secretary's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
2. Chairman's Address.
3. Report of Labour Director.
4. Report of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.
5. Work of Planting Member of Council.
6. Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I.
   (*a*) Control Committee Scheme.
   (*b*) Mundakayam Planters' Association Scheme.
7. Agricultural Matters :—
   (*a*) Pest Act.
   (*b*) Rubber Growers' Association.
   (*c*) Programme of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.
   (*d*) Retention of Services of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.
   (*e*) Analytical Branch of Scientific Department.
   (*f*) Appointment of a Mycologist for the Rubber Industry.
   (*g*) Coffee Cess.
8. *Roads and Communications.*
9. *Legislation.*
   (*a*) Tea Income-tax.
   (*b*) Equivalent Import Duty on Ceylon Tea imported into India.
   (*c*) Indian Tea Cess Committee.
   (*d*) Tea Cess.
   (*e*) Nomination of Planting Member of Council.
   (*f*) Form of Contract for Sale of Coffee in India.
   (*g*) Prohibition of Coffee Export to United Kingdom.
   (*h*) Military Coffee Ration.
   (*i*) Tea Allotments.
   (*j*) Land Tenure and Title Deeds in Mysore.
   (*k*) Importation of Tea into India.
   (*l*) Incorporation of Local Associations.
   (*m*) Imperial Preference.
   (*n*) Statistics.
10. Shipping Freight and Tonnage.
11. British Empire Producers' Organisation.
    (*a*) Coorg Resolution.
    (*b*) South Indian Association.
12. The Planters' Chronicle.
13. Planters' Benevolent Fund.
    (*a*) Imray Children.
14. Planters' War Fund.
15. Finance.
    (*a*) Budget, 1918-1919.
    (*b*) Financing the Planting Industry.
16. Labour and Labour Department.
    (*a*) Mr. Hight's Scheme.
17. Election of Office-Bearers and Auditors for 1918-19.
18. Rules of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Secretary's Annual Report.

Your Excellency and Gentlemen,—In presenting my report for the past year, I am sure you will share with me my regret that through unavoidable causes this Association could not celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in Bangalore, the city of its birth. Of those who attended its first meeting, the majority have either passed away or left the country. The few who remain have written to express their regret at not being able to be present at this meeting but wish the United Planters' Association of Southern India a continued career of increasing usefulness.

We must congratulate ourselves on the presence of H. E. the Governor of Madras who has honoured our Silver Jubilee meeting, a further proof of his continuous personal interest in our Planting Industries.

At the first meeting in 1893, which was really a Conference of the Planters of Southern India, fourteen Associations including the Kolar Mining Board and Messrs. Binny & Co. sent representatives. Two native Associations were then represented but they dropped out in 1896 and 1897. We have now fourteen affiliated Planting Associations.

The first accounts presented in 1894 mention a subscription of Rs. 2,440 and an expenditure of Rs. 1,787. This year our revenue has risen to Rs. 28,000 and our expenditure to Rs. 27.952 but if you look at the Balance Sheet, ending the 30th June, 1918, you will find that we handle no less than Rs. 2,45,510, indicative to my mind of the enormous strides made in the last twenty-five years, and the confidence of the planting community in the increasing influence and usefulness of this Association.

Gentlemen, the fifth year of the war opens, I hope, with brighter prospects of an Allied victory. Since the beginning of this war, the planting community of Southern India have furnished 250 men of whom twenty-four have joined His Majesty's Forces since last we met and the following have given their lives for the King and country:—

CENTRAL TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—H. S. Walford, Arnakal Estate, 2nd Lieut., 10th Worcesters, Egypt.

COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—G. L. Newbery, A. J. L. O'Beirn, Lieut R. F. C. and C. O. Mortimer, 2nd Lieut.-H. A. C.

KANAN DEVAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—P. G. Fraser, Lieut., Gordon Highlanders, believed killed; F. D. Mackinnon, Lieut., I.A.R.O., 130th Baluchis, Indian E. F., B. E. Africa, R. Ll. Peel, Lieut., R. F. A., Gallipoli (awarded the M. C. died of wounds).

MUNDAKAYAM P. A.—E. S. Connor, Capt., R. F. A., 106th Brigade, G. C. Gilbert, 2nd Lieut., J. Y. M. Henderson, 2nd Lieut. H. L. I.; C. Lane, Private, believed killed; L. Price, 2nd Lieut., Adjutant, Camel Corps, in Egypt believed killed; E. R. Reid, Private, 7th Hants Regiment, killed in action, Mesopotamia; R. J. Scarbrough, Captain, 3rd Battalion, Devons killed in action in Palestine.

NILGIRI P. A.—L. C. W. Deane, Lieutenant-Colonel in command 6th S. W. Borderers, given the D. S. O.

SOUTH TRAVANCORE P. A.—J. D. H. Cook, 2nd Lieut., attached Gurkhas.

The following have been wounded:—S. W. Hoole, Lieut. Machine-Gun Corps in France, wounded three times; G. W. Breithaupt,

Yorks, Pindi, now 73rd C. I., Mercara, wounded in Mesopotamia; H. R. Trelawney, Lieut, D. C. L. I., wounded; A. W. G. Wright, 2nd Lieut. R. G. A., wounded in Flanders now in England. W. J. Dixson, Capt., East Kent Mounted Rifles, B. E. F. in France; M. O. Koechlin, Sergeant, 2nd King Edward's Horse, which is now attached the First Canadian Cavalry Brigade, wounded; J. H. Byrne, Sergeant, H. L. I., discharged owing to wounds received in Mesopotamia; H. J. O'Reilly, Captain, Royal Irish Regiment, twice wounded; A. P. Kinloch, 3rd Royal Warwicks, France, a third time wounded dangerously and invalided and T. S. Dobree, Panora Tea and Produce Co, Royal Artillery, wounded 3 times and has a bar to his Military Cross.

A full list is placed before each delegate. We have to mourn the loss from natural causes of Messrs. Randolph Morris (Mysore), C. E. Murray Aynsley (Coorg) C. Brander (South Travancore) Rawson (Nilgiris) and Thomas Hunt (Mysore).

A pamphlet containing the resolutions passed at the last Annual General Meeting with their replies is placed before each delegate which will, I hope, show what has been done in regard to them and will shorten my report.

I am pleased to report that a new Association called the Nilgiri-Wynaad Planters' Association has been formed and has been elected to the Parent Association with an acreage of 8,000 acres.

Though all our industries have suffered from restriction both of output and export and all have suffered hardship, it resolves itself into a question of tonnage. You may rest assured that when there is a sufficiency of tonnage, much of it will be placed at the disposal of the exporters of India. Each of our industries has been though varying vicissitudes since we last met. Last year the first tea allotments were made and Mr. Eccles. the Collector of Customs, attended our meeting, since which the Food Controller has purchased 66 per cent. of the crop. The present Collector of Customs, who is also the Assistant Tea Commissioner, has the assistance of an Advisory Board of ten leading Tea Planters of Southern India.

Rubber at the present moment is handicapped by the restriction of output and removal from the priority list. I cannot but recall to your memory the Government letter of the 20th December, 1917, after the Ootacamund Conference from which I extract the following :—"In regard to Rubber, it is observed that exports are above the normal and show a tendency to increase, that freight for the carriage of rubber is provided in sufficient quantity and that Banks have been instructed to give preference to exports of rubber. The Government of India are, therefore, of opinion that no further assistance is necessary so far as rubber estates are concerned." But a change has come over the spirit of that dream and probably rubber is more handicapped than any of our industries at present. But the rebound is sure to come.

The position of coffee is more satisfactory than last year which promised disaster to the industry, but in the end placed it in a safe position, for from information I have been able to collect, not more than 1,000 tons remain unsold in the country. In a very large measure this has been due to the various deputations to H. E. the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India. H. E. the Governor of Madras and to Sir George Barnes, the Minister of Industries and Commerce, the outcome of which was the rousing of real interest in this industry and practical assistance by purchase

of 180 tons on behalf of the army in India at Rs.45 a cwt., a contract for 500 tons from the War Office in England at Rs. 46 a cwt., of 2,000 tons for the Greek Government at Rs. 46 and Rs. 42 a cwt. In connection with these purchases the Association is deeply indebted to Mr. Brooke Mockett, Sir John Rees and the British Empire Producers' Organisation at Home. Out here our thanks are chiefly due to the Government of Madras, the Hon'ble the British Resident in Mysore and the Chief Commissioner of Coorg for their consistent support and the latter especially for the untiring keenness with which he represented the difficulties facing coffee planters, and to Messrs. Tipping and Lake, our able representatives to Delhi. In no small measure have the perseverance and advocacy of your Chairman and Planting Member contributed to the satisfactory position that now exists.

From a planting point of view the weather, during the past year under review, I gather, has not been generally favourable. The result of the long drought has yet to be seen.

From the Madras Presidency Ports during the last year 6 098,827 lbs. of Rubber were shipped. Figures of exports of tea and coffee are not allowed to be published as these products come under the heading of food and drink.

This year it is estimated that the total coming crop will amount to 12,000 tons. I hear from Mr. Mockett that efforts are being made to move a great part of this. The Board of Trade has sanctioned the export of 1674 tons to the United Kingdom, which has been apportioned as follows:—

Madras	...	464 tons.
Coorg	...	504 „
Mysore	...	706 „

During the year there have been several Conferences ; the Ootacamund Conference, the Control Committee Meeting at Munnar, the Rubber Conference at Cochin and the Coffee Planters' Conference at Mysore. All these have aroused real interest and have been published either in pamphlet form or in the *Planters' Chronicle*, or both and will come before you at this meeting.

The Taccavi Loan, as the outcome of the first, was suggested by Government to assist planters financially. I believe that some planters have availed themselves of this form of assistance.

All these have entailed a vast amount of correspondence especially that connected with the allotment of tea and coffee purchases.

I have to report that the South Indian Association has been formed at Home.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation will come before you later, but Mr. Brooke Mockett wrote me: "Almost every important British Industry is affiliating to the British Empire Producers' Organisation." As regards its support during the coffee crisis it has been invaluable.

Owing to the war the activities of the Rubber Growers' Association have been mainly devoted to the restriction of output and it formulated a scheme which was placed before the Colonial office with which the Local Committee agreed but added as an expression of opinion to paragraph D which reads that the Governments of Holland, French, Indo-China should be urged similarly to limit production in their countries, should be added:

"or should be excluded from British and American markets." To those subscribers of the R. G. A. are circulated direct from Home those pamphlets and Bulletins that are issued of a confidential nature. South India Rubber properties subscribe £375 a year direct to the Rubber Growers' Association.

Mr. Mead, of the West Coast Planters' Association has been nominated your Representative on the Madras Chamber of Commerce.

The Madras Exhibition, at which our various products were displayed excited considerable interest and I am told that several large merchants noted the addresses of estates in whose form of produce they were accustomed to deal. We were awarded a Diploma of Excellence.

I have also to report the closing down of the laboratory as a temporary measure and that the Forward Contract for Forward Sales of Coffee as approved of by the Sub-Committee can now be procured from the Office.

Since the close of last year the acreage subscribing to the Association has increased by 10,000 acres to the 30th June, 1918.

The acreage subscribing to the Labour Department is 109,179 acres or an increase of 2,771 acres since last year and in connection with this, I would like to thank subscribers, who under grave pecuniary difficulties, have responded to my calls. The total subscription including cardamoms amounts to Rs. 210,464-13-10.

Subscription to the 30th June to S. I. Planters' War Fund amounts to Rs. 77,189-1-10. The loans granted at Home have only amounted to Rs. 1,415. In accordance with a Resolution passed last year, I wrote to Mr. Macfarlane, the Honorary Secretary of this Fund at Home to take every available opportunity of bringing the knowledge of its existence to planters who had joined His Majesty's Forces. One planter by latest advices was unhappily likely to become an inmate of that admirable Institution—St. Dunstan's Home.

The South India Planters' Benevolent Fund at the 30th June amounted to Rs. 19,428-14-11 and the assistance given during the past year amounted to Rs. 950.

The *Planters' Chronicle* shows a profit of Rs. 475-10-1 instead of Rs. 800 estimated for, but this difference is due to the continued rise in price of paper.

The most urgent and important business before this meeting is the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I., and with the experience of twenty-five years behind you, I do not believe a better jumping off ground could have been chosen to do so that your twenty-fifth birthday, and that the result of your deliberations will be that the United Planters' Association of Southern India will emerge more united, more strengthened, more influential and more progressive.

In conclusion I would call your attention to the fact that in the honour, so well deserved and so well learned, bestowed on your Planting Member, your Association itself feels honoured.

The accounts for the year are laid on the table. A comparison of actuals with estimates shows the following results :—

	Estimate.			Actual.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Income ...	29,156	6	0	28,184	8	4
Expenditure ...	23,750	7	0	27,952	4	0

The excess of expenditure was incurred through unforeseen expenses that arose during the year as follows :—

	Rs.
Committee Meetings	423
Madras Exhibition	1,700
Legal Expenses	302
Subscription to B. E. P. Organisation ...	139
Secretary (Personal Allowance) . .	300
Telegrams of Executive and Cables Home	607
Stationary	466
Postages	267

THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman addressed the meeting as follows :—

YOUR EXCELLENCY.—I fear I can but poorly express to you the sincere appreciation that my brother planters and myself feel at your honouring us here to-day on the opening of our annual Conference this year, our 25th anniversary. We shall always remember the interest you have taken in all matters concerning us. By your many tours in the planting districts you have seen for yourself and gained first hand a knowledge of what the planters of S. India have done for the good of this part of the Empire. To many of us it will be for ever our home—our children carrying on where we leave off. So we shall carry on that which we have begun in the development and prosperity of this country in which we have a considerable stake and in the happiness of its people. We should be considered as amongst the people of the country, and our interests inseparable. When you leave this country you and Lady Pentland will carry with you the good wishes of our community. Your memories will remain for ever in the keeping of true hearts. The intimate knowledge you have obtained of our industries, we feel, will not be forgotten and, if occasion occurs, will be used for our good.

Your Excellency and Gentlemen.—From unavoidable causes, it was not possible to make arrangements to hold our annual Conference this year at Bangalore, and I agree with our Secretary that it is to be regretted that this Association could not celebrate its twenty-fifth birthday in Bangalore, the city of its birth. Mr. Norton did all he could in trying to find accommodation for the delegates at Bangalore, but was unable to do so. On the 30th April, Circular No. 6-18 was sent to the Councillors in which Mr. Norton quoted the following abstract from my letter of the 22nd April to him :—"The Chairman further adds if delegates failed to attend through want of accommodation this would be regrettable as this year's meeting is likely to be a memorable one in our Association's history. But I leave this matter in the hands of my Councillors who, I feel certain, will place the Association's welfare before anything else. Your early decision is requested so that wherever the annual meeting to be held is decided on, we can make immediate steps to make the necessary arrangements. If I may suggest it I think it would be advisable to make an alternative selection so that failing one place the second should be adopted as the place for the meeting."

Your Council (unanimously) agreed that as it was evidently impossible to find sufficient accommodation in Bangalore, Rule 2 should be altered, and the meeting should be held in Madras for this year. This alteration will have to be confirmed formally by this meeting. I hope, gentlemen, this will remove any false impressions you may have had that the venue of the meeting was decided on by any other body than that of your own Council.

We have now entered on the fifth year of this horrifying war—and we all pray the last stage of this titanic struggle has begun. Great Britain and her Allies are united in a joint cause against militarism and despotism—bound by no law—cruel and inhuman. Your Secretary has read out to you the names of those of our community who have cheerfully given up lucrative posts which would have enabled them to have brought to reality. "Those castles in the Air" —the happy dreams of youth. The young have gone, some never to return. The aged are left. This is to me, the most dreadful outcome of war. I for one look back to a life of 51 happy years, spent in comfort. Willingly would I now give up my life, to ensure to my children that happiness in life which has been my lot in so many years. It is the duty of one and all of us here to-day to help to bring peace back into this world and to ensure its continuity. To all there is a way open. To us here to-day there are ways to help our country and the knowledge of them will, I feel certain, guide you in all your discussions and resolutions. We may have suffered from the effects of this war and harder times I for one feel certain will have to be faced even after this war is ended. I will not admit that we have felt the result of this war more than any other producing industry. We owe a debt for the protection of our industries, and we must repay it. Mr. Kipling, in closing his address at Folkestone on the 15th February, 1918, said.—"But be sure of this Nothing we may have to endure now will weigh one feather-weight compared with what we shall most certainly have to suffer if for any cause we fail of victory."

As I said in my address at the annual Conference held last year:— "We fully recognise the Empire's full resources must be used to bring the war to an early termination."

Gentlemen,—I apologise if I have conveyed to you an impression that what I have said would have been more appropriately addressed to a "War Loan Meeting." I will admit that support granted to the War Loan is one of the means necessary for the early termination of this war. It may be that this is a matter for the "Individual Mind" and not for "an Association like ours." Still if any of you here to-day can think of a way by which we could support or influence support. I would ask you not to hesitate to suggest it.

My address so far has other objects in view, To bring before you, that if it is only by trusted combination, this war will end so—only by trusted combination will the U. P. A. S. I. be able to protect and further your interests when it is called upon to do so. Trust must be placed in your leaders —there must be leaders in every line of life. We cannot all fulfill those positions, but we can supply the combination. You have a very important matter before you at this meeting, the reorganisation of our Association. I hold no brief from either of the supporters of the two schemes before you and do not intend to address you on the merits of either. I more than recognise the necessity of reorganisation. I think you will all agree with me when I say that the work which has fallen on your Chairman and Executive this year has been considerably more than has ever fallen to the lot of any of their predecessors in office. I further think the work the U. P. A. S. I. will have to contend with after the war will not tend to decrease but increase. Mistakes may have been made, if so, they are due to our present constitution and not to the individual. At times I have had to give an opinion on matters, which I have been unable to refer to the Council as an answer has been asked for by wire or return of post. In such instances I have always referred to past opinions of my Council before replying. It is easy, gentlemen, to be destructive, but it is not easy to be constructive.

For the second time in the last 15 years, a member of this Association has appeared amongst the recipients in the Birthday Honours. You will all I know joint with me in congratulating Sir Fairless Barber on his knighthood and ourselves also for the honour conferred on our Association. I have been in close touch with Sir Fairless Barber's work during the last two years, and cannot value it highly enough. The honourhe has received from his King is well deserved.

In the midst of the greatest crisis the world has ever seen, it is meet and proper on the occasion of our twenty-fifth annual general meeting to reflect on our existence with gratefulness. To thank from the bottom of our hearts those far-seeing men by whom the idea of a United Planters' Association was transformed into action which resulted in our birth twenty-five years ago. The period is usually taken as covering one generation of Europeans in India, and it is not to be expected that we should find many in the country who took part in forming this Association. I regret, gentlemen, that none of those honoured six who are still in India, have been able to come here to-day. The idea of forming a United Planters' Association originated in the brains of Mr. J. G. Hamilton and Mr. F. P. Stopford about the year 1890. I think they may well be called the godfathers of the U. P. A. S. I., although it was three years later before the idea materialised by a meeting held at Bangalore on the 28th August, 1893, with Mr. Digby Brett in the chair, 25 planters being present, of whom I believe, 12 are still alive. Those not with us are "doing their bit" in the Home country and certainly watch and appreciate our efforts still, and it must be gratifying to them to know that the organisation they called into being has become a power in the land. While thanking them all, we do not forget to cherish the memories of those of them who have earned their eternal rest.

Of the problems which faced the delegates at early meetings, the labour question was one of importance. We may smile when we think that the date of the early meetings was fixed in strict accordance with that of the Bangalore Races. "Good old days," we may say, though we realise that the necessity for a united body of planters was always paramount in their minds, and that to get over the indifference (and perhaps something more than that) of the majority conviviality and the Races were only a means to an end. They had certainly to overcome the feeling, common to other minds besides those of planters, that a standing Army in peace time was unnecessary, and sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

When the history of the Association comes to be written, as I hope it will be some day, the bound files of the *Madras Mail*, which has always been such a consistent friend of the South Indian Planting industry, will be the source from which the historian will glean most of his information.

The annual reports, of course, will be another source of inspiration, especially as to the manner in which it has grown in importance from year to year. For instance I can imagine nothing more interesting than for a man with some imagination tracing for himself the growth of our Scientific Department. The keen interest taken in scientific knowledge has been shown by the eagerness of the delegates to sit at the feet of anyone who could tell them something about the scientific side of their work. Among those from whom they sought advice was Dr. Lehmann, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of Mysore and Messrs. Cameron and Krumbiegel, successive

Superintendents of Government Gardens in Mysore, and many others who had any pretentions to speak with authority. Then came the formation of the Agricultural Departments of Madras and Mysore and the way was made easy for the establishment of the Scientific Department as it now exists and as it will exist when the war will permit of the bigger scheme being brought into working. Called into existence primarily to consider labour problems, the Association has in course of time, evolved a Labour Department the future of which is to be a subject of discussion at this meeting; requests regarding roads and communications have developed into demands for railways to serve the planting districts and for safe harbours to permit of produce being safely, cheaply and expeditiously exported. We represent now the superstructure laid on solid foundations by great and good men, and it is our part not only to show ourselves worthy at the present time, but to leave for our successors as clean and as sound an edifice as we have inherited. I think it is only fit and proper that I should conclude this part of my address by citing the words of Mr. Digby Brett, the first Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., in closing his address at the meeting of 1894:—

"And, Gentlemen, bear in mind that whatever may be the special interest of any particular section of our community, which it may be desirable to protect, we can only do so by combining for the defence of all."

You have heard your Secretary's report on the past year's work. The audited accounts of the Association are on the table and copies of the same have been with Councillors a fortnight before the meeting. I had hoped that the pamphlet containing the resolutions passed at the annual Conference of last year would have been circulated some considerable time before the meeting. But, I hope, even at this late hour the delegates will find it of use. Anyhow, it will prove an easy form of reference. You have a long agenda before you and all important matters will be considered in Committee first, when I will do my best to answer any questions put to me. So, I do not intend to deal at any great length with the work of the past year or the present position of our industries. The following reference recording work outside the general routine of Chairman's office work will be of interest and worth recording in the annals of the U. P. A. S. I.

A Finance Committee Meeting was held at Ootacamund on the 5th October, 1917, and presided over by H. E. the Governor. Addresses were presented to His Excellency in October, 1917, at Calicut and Mangalore on the finance and coffee positions and were given a sympathetic hearing. An address was presented from the U. P. A. S. I. to the Secretary of State through H. E. the Governor-General-in-Council at Madras on the 17th December, 1917. The deputation was comprised of the Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber, Mr. P. G. Tipping, 2nd Vice-Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. and myself. The Madras Exhibition was opened on the 21st December, 1917. We were granted a Diploma of Excellence for our Exhibit. The photograph of our stall is on the table. I hope the Director of Agriculture will give you his opinion of our exhibit. Our thanks are due to your Secretary and Messrs. Parry & Co. for their help in running the exhibition, without that of Messrs. Parry & Co., we should have made a poor show. To the Director of Agriculture our thanks are also due for giving us space in the Agricultural Division, for his advice, and for receiving and forwarding exhibits. If any complaints are forthcoming, regarding the arranging of exhibits, I am solely responsible. No one came forward to help—and all I can say is that I did my

best with the very few exhibits at my disposal. Pamphlets were issued at the doors of our stalls explanatory of our Industries. Tea and coffee grown by members of the U. P. A. S. I, was solely drunk at all refreshment stalls although not far distant were advertisements pushing the sale of Messrs. "Lipton's" and "Brooke Bond" tea. I should not when I looked at these have passed them by with a snarl as I did, if they had been designated as pure Indian tea, in which instance I should have wagged my tail with delight. As to benefits obtained by the Exhibition, all I can say is that we made a good advertisement and the fruit to be gathered must be left to the individual. I made three trips to Madras on account of the Exhibition. A meeting of the Local Committee of the R. G. A. was held on the 10th January, 1918, at Calicut. The Proceedings of the meeting appeared in the *Planters' Chronicle* of the 19th January, 1918.

Three meetings of the Tea Advisory Committee were held in Madras on the 14th January, 22nd March and the 18th August, 1918, all of which I attended.

Mr. P. G. Tipping and Mr. C. Lake went to Delhi on a deputation from the U. P. A. S. I., to place before the Government the Coffee Purchase Scheme. We all regret that the Government was unable to accept the scheme, but must fully recognise the justice of their refusal. The deputation had its good result and the thanks of coffee planters are due to those two gentlemen for having so willingly given up their time for the welfare of their brother planters.

A meeting of the Labour Control Committee was held at Madupatti from the 13th to 15th April, 1918, when that Committee's scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I, was considered.

A Conference of rubber planters was held at Cochin from the 7th to the 9th May, 1918, at which I had the honour to preside. The proceedings of the Conference was circulated in pamphlet form and it is of more than passing interest. The Mundakayam scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I., was discussed. The following resolution was passed at the end of the discussion on the two schemes for re-organisation placed before you at this meeting:—

"That this Meeting do approve of the proposals put forward by the Control Committee and the Mundakayam Planters' Association and do leave the only points at variance for settlement at the U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting."

The thanks of not only rubber planters, but of that great majority the investors, are due to the Mundakayam Association for the conception of the Conference.

A Conference of coffee planters was held at Mysore on the 1st and 2nd July. I very much regret that the proceedings of this Conference have not as yet been issued to the planting community. It is due to the importation of a "new kind of Influenza"—which is no respector of persons. I am just out of bed from an attack not feeling very strong to complete the editing of this address. The *Madras Mail* contained a fairly full account of the proceedings and I think we must all be pleased to note, that the coffee planter is not the lame dog some people think him to be. From a resolution passed at the meeting you will note that the opinions of those

present at the meeting was that coffee planters should pay an equal cess per acre as an "all in subscription to the U. P. A. S. I." Besides these Conferences and Deputations, I also on several occasions made myself a nuisance to Government officials and Managers of Banks. I apologise to all of them and hope they will forget my existence as Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. Coffee has come through the year far better than was at one time anticipated and practically the whole of the past season's crop has now been sold. That the position is at the moment so satisfactory is due in a large measure to the orders placed by the Government of India and we take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the assistance thus rendered to this branch of the planting industry. The prospects for the approaching season are, I believe, full of promise; large crops are expected to be harvested and the problem of how these are to be disposed of is already exercising the minds of those interested in the commodity. We all hope a satisfactory solution will be found and that the assistance of Government can be again relied on, to an even greater extent, than heretofore, by orders placed for their own requirement and those of other Governments. Adversity may in the end mean a blessing in disguise to the coffee planter.

It is not necessary for me to make any explanatory references as to the terms of the past and future tea contract with the Food Controller. The planting correspondent in the *Madras Mail* loses no time in criticising the weak points. His humourous way of dealing with the Food Controller, makes me laugh—a good tonic in these times. So I am glad a Food Controller exists. I feel we all admire the way Lord Rhondda faced and overcame the many difficulties that he met with and that we regret his untimely death. If it is the interest of "Tea Planter *vs.* Empire" to be considered I know which must go first but think there is one point which we must seriously face. The Food Controller is prepared to take 60 per cent. of our total output. Is that going to keep the tea planter out of the work house? I give you an example. An estate sells its tea to Food Controller 50 per cent. F. O. B.

His acreage is 100 acres.

His yield is 600 lbs. per acre.

His total yield is 600,000 lbs.

the Food Controller takes 36,000 lbs., valued Rs. 18,000. Unless the planter can place his balance crop, the amount he receives from the Food Controller would mean 30 cents. per lb. on his total output. Few of us can produce tea for that now. The point for us to seriously face is the placing or disposing of our balance crop—and here I think we have every right in asking and expecting the Government of India to come forward and help us. I for one say and I do so honestly, that if the import of foreign tea was not permitted into India, I could place the whole of my crop in India more advantageously to myself than I do now to the Food Controller. I am not grumbling at what the Food Controller is paying us for our tea. I think the pre-war average was the correct basis. "Importation of Tea" appears on your agenda. Through the I. T. C. we have worked up "the sale of tea in India." Is it right that any other tea-producing country should benefit from that which we have with our own money built for ourselves. The other day, a representative of a Bombay firm visited me, an argument he put forward for offering low prices was the quantity of cheap Java and Ceylon teas available in the Bombay market. I told him perhaps the day would come when things would change and such teas would have to pay import duty. He answered:—"I hope not, Sir. We make so much

profit on those teas—buy very cheap and sell for the same price as your teas."

Weather as with all our products has a controlling effect on tea crop. Last season in my district the weather was not favourable. The S.-W. Monsoon being more or less a failure and when we should have had forcing weather, we had heavy rain and little or no sun.

Last year I remarked on the rapid fall in rubber prices, which I thought might possibly be due to increase in Home stocks, but hoped for a recovery later in the year. Rubber has been removed from the Priority List, we are told, owing to currency difficulties. Freight is not available for shipment to the United Kingdom, thus cutting South Indian rubber out of the Home market, and with America further restricting licence for import into the United States for August and September, prices are still falling, and the latest Home price shows about 2s. per lb. practically the lowest on record, Colombo valuing standard rubber at about 75 cents. and that market practically closed—Home stocks being 5,000 tons in excess of those at the same period of last year. There is at the present moment about (?) lbs. South Indian rubber waiting shipment at West Coast ports. The large proportion of rubber planting in South India is of a later date than that of Ceylon and other rubber-producing countries, and the trouble from which the industry is now suffering has fallen on young producing companies and estates at the most critical time of their life. Rubber unlike tea and coffee has no local market to fall back on, and so financial aid is necessary and urgent. It is due to British enterprise and capital that Great Britain holds the commanding position she does as regards rubber supplies, an indispensable war requirement to her and her Allies. Planters fully recognise that the best must be made of sea tonnage and that the "Best" can only mean the carrying of absolute necessary war requirements and food commodities. I think those rubber companies and estates that are in need of urgent financial aid have every right in expecting and claiming Government aid and help in the same way as it has been given to the coffee planters by means of Taccavi Loans.

The R. G. A. still continues to push forward a scheme for the restriction of output, and I think on such lines rests our future prosperity. Rubber yields in South India I think fulfil all our anticipations.

There is no doubt in any rubber planter's mind, or that of a great number of those more deeply interested, *viz.*, "the investors," that the appointment of a Mycologist is an urgent and absolute necessity. "Phytophthora Meadii" and "Brown Bast" are not diseases to be played with.

Cinchona, Cardamoms and Pepper.

I fear I have now little knowledge of any of these products, but that is no reason why they should be passed by. They may require as much help as any of our other products. Those interested in them have been very quiet, and I can only hope that they are in a position to wait for a brighter future.

I have no further information to give as regards the Re-organisation Scheme of the Scientific Department, but we can rest assured that the Government have not forgotten it.

With the consent of my Commlttee the Analytical Branch of the Scientific Department of the U. P. A. S. I, has been temporarily closed as from the 20th July, 1918. The Scientific Committee Circular No. 1-18, enclosing copy of a letter from the Director of Agriculture, Madras, remarking on Mr. Anstead's proposal regarding the continuation of the Analytical Department, was circulated to my Committee. Up to now I have received no replies.

The subscription to the South Indian Planters' Benevolent Fund for the last five years is as follows:—

				Rs.	A.	P.
1914	ending	the 30th June	...	2,480	0	0
1915	do	do	...	1,955	0	0
1916	do	do	...	3,000	4	0
1917	do	do	...	1,955	0	0
1918	do	do	...	1,253	4	0

In 1916 our 3½ per cent. Government Paper represented a value of Rs. 14,430. On the 30th June, 1917, it stands 12,210. The subscriptions this year have only exceeded the relief granted by Rs. 303-4. We shall be asked to give further relief, and are we to refuse it? I make a strong appeal to all the Honorary Secretaries to do all they can to obtain subscriptions for this Fund. I feel certain planters will not refuse if they are asked. I do not think. Honorary Secretaries will object in the interests of the Fund to send reminders to any of us who may forget to give an annual promised subscription.

The subscription to the South Indian Planters' War Fund collected for the three years of its existence is as follows:—

		Rs.	A.	P.
Year ending the 30th June, 1916	...	41,965	0	9
Year ending the 30th June, 1917	...	19,303	14	3
Year ending the 30th June, 1918	...	10,548	7	10

Gentlemen, there is a sad slacking off here. Is this Fund less worthy of our support than it was when Mr. Murphy in his memorable speech raised our enthusiasm? I wish it was never required, but every penny we have collected, and more will be required. At the 1915 meeting subscriptions were promised as follows:—

		Rs.
1	Five instalments	1,500
2	Six quarterly instalments	2,400
3	Till the end of war	6,980
4	Donations	400
	Total ...	11,280

Now, excepting the Rs. 400 donation this amount was promised from amongst the delegates present at that meeting. Am I to believe that the subscriptions are to be limited to that support ? I hope not. The Home Fund stands at what it was last year, *viz.*, Rs. 10.812-4. The Honorary Secretary of the Fund at Home might be asked to send out quarterly accounts.

I am not dealing with any legislative matters, but am leaving them to our Planting Member. If not I shall leave him nothing to talk about.

Those interested in the Labour Department will have read with interest the Director's report. It shows satisfactory progress in all lines, and must I feel sure go some way to convince the opponents to this Dapartment that good work has been done and the moral effect of it must eventually, if not at the present, be beneficial to non-subscribers as well as subscribers. I think the work of four years has sufficiently proved to my mind at least that a Labour Department run on approved lines under the control of the U. P. A. S. I. is a necessity.

I think it is not out of place here for me to congratulate Government on its fine recruiting organisation for war purposes. It has been working hard for the last year, and has always shown consideration for the interests of the country at large and the planting industry. If there has been any inconvenience to us, it has been remarkably little. If districts or individuals have felt aggrieved, they must pass it by as one of the stern necessities of the Empire to win this war.

Accounts will be taken up in committee, so there is no necessity for me to remark on them here.

We have to regret the death of many of our brother planters from natural causes and those of war. While glorifying in the deeds of those who have died for the sake of humanity, we tender to the relatives of all our sincerest sympathies and condolences in their loss.

I thank the Madras Chamber of Commerce for inviting a representative of this Association to be an Honorary Member of the Chamber, under Rule No. 21. I nominated Mr. Mead as our representative. I suggest that a member be nominated annually at this meeting and hope that it will mean Mr. Mead's re-nomination.

Our thanks are due to Sir Bernard Hunter for granting us the use of this room for our meeting. Sir Bernard Hunter must feel quite at home with us here to-day. He was once a planter himself. Evidently planting is a good elementary education.

Our thanks are due to the *Madras Mail* for the interest it has taken in all matters that concern us.

I thank the staff of the U. P. A. S. I. for their loyal support and co-operation to me during an arduous year. The Secretarial staff is the same as it was last year, so you will all recognise the vast volume of work that has fallen on your Secretary.

A Secretary very seldom receives a vote of thanks, although in all probability he deserves one. In this case I hope it will be the exception to the usual probability.

I now come to the end of this—I fear rather tiring—address. I thank you all here this afternoon for the patience you have shown by listening to it. We all have much to be thankful for in this life, but I feel, all I can say will but poorly represent my feeling, for the good-will and courtesy shown to me this year as your Chairman by the Executive and Council of the U. P. A. S. I.

To those many Associations who have during the past year recorded to me an appreciation of my work, I can but say that it did not blow me out with self-conceit—they, I know, recognised I wanted help. Help so given gets the best out of every man, and I have put forward my best. I know I have not pleased all, such a point of excellence I feel is not obtainable by a very ordinary individual like myself. I shall always look back to my two years as your chairman as the most interesting years spent in my planting life. Again to your Excellency—I feel I cannot do it too often—I submit a planters' thanks for the honour you have conferred on me and my Association by presiding at the opening of this meeting.

To all the guests present—and I hope they will overlook any question of precedence when I take them *en bloc*—in welcoming them and thanking them for the interest they have shown in this Body Representative of all Planting industries in South India by their presence here to-day.

Estate Writers Class at Coimbatore

The following notice has been received for publication from the Director of Agriculture, Madras :—

I. A class for the training of Estate Writers in plant diseases and pests with special reference of anti-pest measures in connection with Hevea rubber Estates will be held at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, from 1st October to 14th December 1918.

II. Candidates must be *bona-fide* employees of a Planting Estate, and must be nominated by the Proprietor or Manager of the Estate. The class will be limited to 10.

III. Application for admission to the class should be forwarded to the Principal, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, not later than 15th September.

IV. No tuition fees will be charged and free quarters will be supplied. Candidates will be expected to join the Students' Hostel and to observe the College Rules. Further details can be obtained from the Principal on application.

V. Mr. Anstead, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, has kindly presented a copy of Dr. Butler's recent book on Plant Diseases as a prize for the student who does best in the class.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Annual Meeting of the United Planters' Association closed on the 24th instant and the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, The Director, Labour Department and the Secretary have returned to Headquarters.

Mr. Nicolls was for the third time in succession elected Chairman, thus creating a record. Mr. A. H. Mead and Mr. C. Lake were elected first and second Vice-Chairman respectively.

Every effort is being made to issue the Book of Proceedings as soon as possible, and Honorary Secretaries are requested to send in their requirements at a very early date. It is to be hoped that every member of every District Association will order a copy.

We publish the Speech addressed to the Delegates by His Excellency Lord Pentland, Governor of Madras, which is in itself of high interest to all planters, as being the first addressed to the U. P. A. S. I. by a Governor of Madras. It was highly appreciated by them, not only as a further sign of his personal interest in the planting industry, but for its intrinsic value.

The Annual Report of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, is published.

We publish the Quarterly Meeting of the South Travancore Planters' Association.

R. D. A. supplies a short review for the Planters' Library of Dr. E. J. Butler's Book on Fungi and Disease in Plants and strongly recommends every planter to procure a copy.

Mr. Danvers writes forcibly on Coffee Prices and points out some methods by which these can be kept at a fair level.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	73,384	0	0
Mr. D. Elkington	72	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
Messrs. Barber & Pascoe	75	0	0
Total Rs...	73,561	0	0

ANNUAL MEETING, U. P. A. S. I.

(Continued.)

H. E. The Governor.

H. E. the Governor then addressed the meeting. His Excellency said:—

MR. NICOLLS AND GENTLEMEN,—Let me in the first place express to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, my sense of the high honour they have done me in inviting me to be present here to-day and my appreciation of the generous welcome with which they have now endorsed that invitation. In the second place let me assure them that we in Madras can understand and sympathise with the natural regret of members of the Association that circumstances have prevented it from celebrating its semi-jubilee in the city of its birth. But we regard it as a great privilege to have this opportunity thus accidentally afforded of welcoming the Association to this city. We sincerely hope that you may find some compensations here for this enforced departure from your usual custom, and that you will have no other reason to regret an occasion which has given great pleasure to the numerous friends and well-wishers of the planting community and its Association among the residents of Madras. In a word, gentlemen, you are heartily welcome in Madras. As the capital of this Presidency and as its principal port and commercial centre, Madras is intimately concerned with your welfare and progress and should any similar opportunity recur we shall always regard it as an honour and a pleasure to have the Association in our midst.

Your Chairman has referred in the kindest terms to my personal interest in all matters connected with the planting industry, which you may be sure will continue when the end comes to my own connection with this land of your adoption. When that time comes if any opportunity should offer of urging the importance of the great work in which your community is engaged or of serving its best interests I shall gladly do whatever rests in my power.

One of the most interesting chapters and one seldom written in the history of any country would deal with the manner in which the land has gradually been cleared and made habitable, the virgin soil subdue to the plough and its various resources explored and developed and turned to the uses of civilisation and of mankind. In some countries, as in North America, that history has been one of long stagnation followed by feverish activity and advance, in others, such as India, it has been a slow gradual process of which only the main outlines have been recorded in tradition or in history. When the first Aryan invaders advanced into the Punjab, Karachi was probably fathoms deep beneath the Indian Ocean and the fisherman plied his ancient craft where Calcutta's palaces now stand. In Northern India the history of man's peaceful conquests is largely that of the emancipation from sea and marsh of the great alluvial tracts formed by the drainage systems of the Indus and Ganges and their reduction to wheat land and rice land. Further south in the peninsula the fight had to be waged mainly with the jungle and its fierce inhabitants. The tradition of the Ramayana depicts the Dekkan as covered with dense forest, and no doubt it was the work of generations of patient toilers to win the rich cotton soil of its plateau for husbandry. Ceylon too was regarded in those days as a barbaric and unpleasant neighbour, and its recesses as shielding an arrogant and an accursed race. Their misdeeds were described in terms which I am sure it would horrify the members of this Association in these days to hear applied to their fellow-planters in that Island. But although the combination of jungle and plain yielded by degrees to the axe and the plough, this was not so where jungle and hill were combined.

There the efforts of long established settler and of invader alike proved for the most part unavailing. Cultivation spread to the foot hills of the great ranges of the Eastern and the Western Ghauts but for the most part failed to penetrate them. Indeed in more than one locality it has had to retrace its steps baffled by malaria, the evil genius of the hill country which seeks to guard its inner mysteries. Even up to the beginning of the last century large tracts of ghaut and mountain had been for countless generations peopled only by the elephant and the tiger and a few wandering tribes of aborigines who found a miserable refuge there. The Nilgiri downs had not yet been awakened by the hunter's horn, the Wynaad could probably boast of more elephants than men; the great shoe-horn of the Bababudans remained inviolate, and the forest in the High Range and the Anamalais stretched unbroken from east to west and seemed from sheer difficulty of access likely to remain unexplored for centuries more. It was left to the planting community to break the spell and to make new conquests. I do not know who is regarded as the father of the community though I understand that the claim to have discovered the Nilgiris is still disputed between two families whose names have more than once adorned the annals of this Presidency. I believe, too, that I am right in saying that those who served as pioneers on the Anamalais are even now by no means the oldest members of this Association although they have long exchanged contemplation of the fascinating problem of how they ever got into that country for the no less interesting problem of how to find another way out of it. But whoever the father of your community may have been—and personally I have little doubt that he was a Scot—we may well say

Illi robur et aes triplex.
Circum pectus erat.

If he could revisit the scenes of his youth he would, I think, marvel at what has been accomplished in a few short generations and feel proud of the initiative, resource and courage which his successors have displayed and of the manner in which they have tamed the jungle and by their industry and patience forced it to contribute from its long-hidden wealth to the service of mankind.

You are busy men, Gentlemen, and with your daily pre-occupations perhaps romance is the last thing you would think of associating with the history of your community. But I have myself more than once, through the kindness of members of your community whose generous hospitality I shall not forget, had opportunity of learning from the lips of men who had themselves taken part in pioneer work something of its difficulties, of its fascination, of its trials and of its triumphs: and this occasion reminds me of my old friend, who may have been known to some of the Mysore planters present here to-day, Mr. Elliott, of Clifton Park in the south of Scotland, who came out as a lad to Mysore and during a long and honoured life was actively interested in the Munserabad planting district of the Mysore State. As many of you are no doubt aware, he published several volumes of his recollections and experiences as a coffee planter in India. And this leads me to express the hope that when normal times return this Association, even although absorbed in the problems of the future, will seriously consider whether further published literary record should not be made of the accumulated lore and tradition and experience and history of the planting community before it is too late. The fact that this Association has itself attained its silver jubilee reminds us all that the longer the task is deferred the more difficult it will be to secure authentic records, and you will perhaps pardon me the brief retrospect which this anniversary has suggested. It is however with the present and with the problems of the future that this meeting of your Association is immediately concerned.

Turning then to the present, for you, Gentlemen, as for all of us it is dominated by the war, by its continuance and by the altered conditions to which it has given rise. The first question which is demanded of every community in these days or which it puts to itself is, to use a colloquialism, "Have you done your bit?" Now from my own knowledge I can testify that the planting community of Southern India is entitled emphatically to say "We have." It has subscribed large sums to the Indian war loans both of last year and of this, and it has supported and assisted all forms of local war efforts from the Madras War Fund downwards with a generosity and readiness for which those who are responsible for the financing and organising of these efforts are deeply grateful. The community has also set free for war service and regardless of the strain and responsibility thus thrown on the older men who have remained behind, a large number of men who represent some of the finest material that is now officering the new armies. Further demands are being made and we are confident that the community will make every effort possible to meet them. The community has at the same time contributed handsomely for the relief of its own members who may be incapacitated by wounds and of the dependents of those who may be called upon to make the last sacrifice in the defence of their country. Toll has already been taken of your numbers; gallant lives have been lost, others have suffered wounds. I can only express the hope that when the struggle is over and the final roll is called there will be few further gaps in the list of sons and brothers and comrades who now represent you at the front. I know too and admire the manner in which in spite of continuous anxieties and difficulties and in spite of depleted numbers you have managed to keep a great and vital industry in full swing and have at the same time uncomplainingly and willingly seconded the efforts of those responsible to assure the internal peace and security of the country. A community with such a record behind it of difficulties overcome and high duties undertaken may surely face with confidence the problems of re-construction, of re-organisation, and of future progress which the conclusion of the war will inevitably bring to you, as to all of us.

Gentlemen, your agenda paper for this meeting is substantial enough to give food for thought to those who think that because the planter generally manages to keep smiling he has no anxieties, that because he enjoys his scanty holidays he never works, and that given a clearing on the hillside and a small nursery the tropical sun will do the rest and line his pocket with gold. For the rest of this week you will be engaged upon the discussion of intricate and difficult problems connected with land, with agricultural methods, with finance, with labour, with communications, and with transport, reminding us all that on the wise and sober treatment of the questions depends the future of the great industry or rather the series of allied industries which have attracted much needed capital to this country, found employment for thousands of its population, materially added to its wealth and under sound and provident guidance ought to be capable of development far in excess of what has yet been accomplished.

You will not expect me to deal with questions which only men of expert knowledge and first hand experience are adequate to discuss but there are one or two items on the agenda to which you will perhaps permit me to refer.

One is the work of the Planting Member of Council. I do not know whether Sir Fairless Barber altogether relishes the prominence thus given to him or whether the inquisition which that item suggests is an annual preliminary rite deemed necessary to initiate your proceedings. But if I

may venture to give a testimonial, unsolicited let me observe, as to matters within my knowledge, the community has been fortunate in a choice which has provided it with a representative who while perfectly capable of stating in a reasoned and forcible manner its difficulties of grievances or requirements, gives the Madras Government credit for goodwill towards the planting community and for some appreciation of the importance of the interests which it represents. He has done everything in his power to supply that information and foster that exchange of ideas on which alone mutual comprehension can be based, has imputed no motives where agreement could not be reached, and has combined tact and good temper with the most loyal and assiduous devotion to the interests which he represents.

Of the other items some are beyond the province of the Madras Government though if by suggestion or advice they can help towards their solution they will gladly do so. Others are matters with which they are closely and intimately concerned, such as the means by which the latest results in agricultural science can be placed at the disposal of the planting community and the machinery provided for the investigation of its own peculiar problems. I am glad to think that even during the war we have been able to make some advance in these respects and I personally look forward to the day, not far distant, I hope, when our Agricultural Department will be completely equipped for that work of research and experiment which will enable the planting community to improve standards, to increase outturns, to introduce new methods and new products and to undertake with more certain knowledge and confidence the work of development for which there is still so much scope.

Another matter in which we are mutually concerned is the opening up of the planting districts and the improvement of means of transport and communication. Here, too, the war has upset your calculations and our own but we have not been idle. We have pushed on the investigation of a number of schemes of vital interest to the planting industry. We are anxious to bring them to a satisfactory issue and when occasion offers we shall not fail to press their importance upon those authorities with whom the final decision must rest. We attach great importance to those projects which are intended to give easier access to the West Coast ports ; and here I may be permitted specially to refer to Cochin. The problems are by no means simple but I see no reason why a settlement should not be arrived at satisfactory to you, to the Madras Government and to the other interests concerned.

Of the other items on your programme some relate to the organisation and internal policy of this Association. It would be impertinence on the part of a visitor to discuss or advise on these matters, but I may perhaps be allowed to join in expressing the confident belief that a community which has so long acted upon the view that in union there is strength and has throughout the war so willingly subordinated its own interests and needs to a patriotic sense of duty, will in regard to its own increasing problems show an equal and continued sense of common interest, with that capacity for joint action, for compromise and for the subordination of personal interests and differences of opinion to wider views and to the common good without which your Association would never have survived to celebrate its silver jubilee.

Gentlemen, I thank you again for the welcome accorded to me and for the patience with which you have heard me. I wish success to your deliberations and a prosperous future to the United Planters' Association of Southern India aud to the community which it represents,

Annual Report of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

1st July, 1917 to 30th June, 1918.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to present to you my Ninth Annual Report which takes the usual form adopted in past years, being a brief summary of the work done by your Scientific Department during the year.

Staff, Office, and Correspondence.

No addition to, or alteration of, the office or staff has been made during the year.

I availed myself of one month's leave in India during the month of April, but continued to conduct the office correspondence during that time.

1,009 letters have been received during the year and 845 written. This is a little below the average, but this part of my duties continues to absorb most of my time when I am at head-quarters.

Publications and Tours.

I have, as usual, contributed regularly to the pages of the *Planters' Chronicle*.

During the year I have made a number of tours, being absent from head-quarters for 80 days. The following Districts have been visited: —The Shevaroys, in company with the Government Mycologist, to investigate Fruit diseases and Vegetable culture as well as Coffee cultivation; Malabar, the West Coast, and Cochin in connection with Rubber Diseases. On one of these tours I was accompanied by the Government Mycologist, and we were engaged on special work connected with the *Phytophthora* of Rubber. A brief visit to South India was paid by Dr. Butler, the Imperial Mycologist stationed at Pusa, and as he particularly wished to see some Rubber cultivation and only had a few days to spare, the Government Mycologist and I accompanied him on a visit to Mooply Valley kindly arranged by Mr. Mead. I paid a short visit to South Mysore, Mudigere District, in connection with Coffee hybrids.

I also attended a Meeting of the Rubber Growers' Association held at Calicut, and the Rubber Planters' Conference held at Cochin, an Agricultural Conference at Coimbatore, and the Board of Agriculture Meeting held this year at Poona.

These tours have necessitated my travelling a distance of 6,973 miles by rail and 731 miles by road.

Scientific Work, Pests, Diseases, etc.

No new pests or diseases have been reported on planting products during the year.

Work in connection with diseases of Tea, Rubber and Coffee begun in the past has been continued and the Rubber Manurial Experiments at Kerala have been continued. The Coffee Manurial Experiments have had to cease for the time being; the plots remain unmanured or have been modified owing to the impossibility of obtaining the requisite fertilisers which they were designed to test, more especially Potash Salts.

Coffee.

Spraying with Bordeaux Mixture as a preventative against Leaf Disease and Black Rot has been continued over small areas in several places, and it is fairly well established that the method is successful where it can be properly carried out. The limiting factors are labour and water.

Some interesting experiments showing the effect of spraying on the control of Black Rot, conducted in Coorg, were reported in the *Chronicle*.

Work on the various Root Diseases which attack Coffee has been taken up by the Government Mycologist and myself, but the nature of this study and the limited time at our disposal have as yet prevented any definite conclusions being made. The matter is, however, receiving attention and the recommendations laid down for the control of these diseases in the mean time are found to be satisfactory.

A trial of Robusta Coffee as a catch crop for Hevea is being made at Pudukad which should lead to some interesting results as the Coffee has been given particular attention and the inter-planted Rubber is widely spaced.

Tea.

Brown Blight continues to be frequently reported, especially on nurseries, but the recommendations for its control when systematically carried out are effective. This disease undoubtedly needs careful attention as it is apt under climatic conditions favourable to the fungus to do a considerable amount of damage.

Attack of the caterpillars of *Thosea cervina* and *Heterusia vireseas* have been again reported, but these attacks are sporadic and are best controlled by hand picking of the caterpillars, and if noticed early in their career can be easily dealt with. A few cases of borer due to *Zeuzera coffeae* have also been reported.

Rubber.

Work on the Abnormal Leaf-fall has been continued in co-operation with the Government Mycologist. This disease has been definitely proved to be due to a *Phythophora* of a different species to that causing the disease in Ceylon, and it has been named *P. meadii*, in honour of Mr. A. H. Mead, who first called attention to the fact that the leaf-fall was probably not physiological but due to a specific disease. The technical description of the fungus establishing it as a new species has been published in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.

Visits of inspection were made to the various estates where experimental work in connection with this disease are being carried out, and the work is being continued. The difficulty of control lies in the fact that the disease is pre-eminently one of the fruit and the difficulty in removing the fruit pods is great. The methods of control at present suggested are hardly practicable over large areas on account of the quantity of labour required, but it is hoped after further study to hammer out a practical scheme. A considerable advance has been made, in our knowledge of the life-history of the fungus and its method of carrying over from monsoon to monsoon.

Work on the control of Pink Disease has been continued. A system of painting young trees with either Bordeaux Mixture or Bordorite early in the year seems promising and I myself laid down a new experimental block to test this and arrive at some definite conclusions on the subject.

A spacing experiment has also been laid down to try and ascertain the most favourable distance at which Rubber should be planted to attain its maximum growth in the shortest time.

Fruit and Vegetables.

The cultivation of fruit in planting districts is of increasing importance while in the Shevaroys that of vegetables has increased owing to various conditions imposed by the War. A special visit was paid to the Shevaroys by the Government Mycologist and myself in this connection and a report on our tour was published in the *Chronicle*.

It would appear that much more might be done with these products than is done at present. Many of the planting districts are very suitable for fruit culture and it therefore seems a pity that those living in big towns in South India should have to import fruit to the large extent that is done at present from Kulu.

Estate Writers' Class.

The most memorable advance during the year has been made in the establishment at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, of a class of instruction for men sent by estates in elementary Mycology and Entomology to fit them for taking charge of disease work on the estates. At the last Annual Meeting I had the honour to suggest that this might be done and the matter was immediately taken up by the Director of Agriculture, a class was established and attended by 11 men who underwent a course of instruction. This class was in the able hands of Mr. MacRae, who devoted a great deal of time and trouble to it, while the Government Entomologist gave the men a short course in Entomology. These men have now returned to their estates and it is hoped later on, after they have had some practical experience, to bring them back to the College for an advance course; meanwhile another class will be held for a new batch of men.

Advantage of this class was taken in the first instance only by men from Rubber estates but it is hoped in future years to hold a class especially for men from Tea estates.

The success of this new venture will be watched with great interest. Personally I hope and expect great things of it and consider it a decided advance in our method of tackling the disease problem on estates which is undoubtedly a most important one.

Laboratory

I regret to have to report that the working of the Analytical branch of the Department has been found unsatisfactory for several reasons, the chief one being that I am away so much and have so many other duties to attend to that I am unable to give it the supervision necessary for the ensurance of accurate results.

It has been decided for the present to close this branch of our activities and I have made certain proposals to the Director of Agriculture, which are now under consideration, for its working in the future under a new system. I hope that if these suggestions are found acceptable this branch of the Department, which has had its uses and successes as well as its failures, will be re-organised and placed on a satisfactory footing.

The Re-organised Scientific Department.

No further steps have been taken during the year with the re-organisation of the Scientific Department which, like so many other things, is hung up by the War, and I am unable to report when any definite steps will be taken to make the start which we must all long for.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Travancore Planters' Association.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Association was held at the Quilon Club, on Saturday, August 3rd, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. B. Cook (Chairman), Ross, Stewart, J. Mackie, C. Hall, Gray, Stainsforth, Knight, White, Crowther, Thom, Jackson, J.L. Hall and Anderson. *By Proxy.*—Messrs. Morrell, Macdonald and Moore. *Visitors.*—Messrs. Lord, Wilson, Donohue and Chatfield.

Notice of meeting having been read, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The correspondence having been dealt with, the question of the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I, was discussed at length, nearly all the members being against the All-in-scheme and finally the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this Association instructs its delegates to support a scheme of re-organisation and vote in favour of the Labour Department being kept separate as at present; that they favour a cess in respect of the General Working of the Asscciation and the further development of the Scientific Scheme to include a Mycologist for Rubber, for which Rubber Estates would be prepared to pay an increased cess."

The appointment of Mr. John Mackie to the vacant seat on the Travancore Legislative Council as representing planting interests met with the hearty approval of the Association.

In view of the lack of unanimity in regard to the proposed One Day's Pay per month Fund, mentioned at the last meeting, it was decided to drop the matter.

The Government of India's proposals with regard to "Combing out" were discussed and it was felt that it would be impossible without greatly disorganising the industry to spare more than two men beyond those that have already joined up and the Secretary was instructed to notify the names of the two men who could be spared to the proper quarter.

Mr. John Mackie was appointed one of the delegates to the U.P.A.S.I. Meeting at Madras in place of Mr. Moore who was unable to attend.

It was resolved that the Committee revise the rules and that the suggested alterations be placed before the next meeting.

It was arranged that Mr. J. Mackie speak at the Madras Meeting on the subject of Rubber Restrictions if necessary.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

(Signed) R. J. A. MOORE,
Honorary Secretary.

THE PLANTERS' LIBRARY.

Fungi and Disease in Plants by Dr. E. J. Butler.

Mr. Bainbrigge Fletcher's book 'Some South Indian Insects' has been most popular and useful among planters and we now have a somewhat similar book dealing with the Fungi, which cause so many important diseases of plants, written by Dr. E. J. Butler, the Imperial Mycologist, who has spent many years making a special study of Indian fungi.

It is in the nature of a hand-book of the crop diseases of India caused by fungi and special sections are devoted to planters' crops. As pointed out in the preface, British India is a large country and there are few areas under a single Government in any part of the world that contain a greater variety of crops, or where individual crops are found growing under a greater variety of climatic and soil conditions. It is not in a few years, nor even in a life time, that the diseases of each of these crops in every locality can be examined, but the fact that there are still large gaps in our knowledge is not a sufficient reason for delaying the publication of a book of this sort which fills a long-felt want. Hitherto the descriptions of any particular fungoid disease of a crop like Tea or Rubber, with the recommendations for its control, have been scattered through a number of different publications and often in several languages, some of them hard to obtain. Dr. Butler brings these together under concise heads and deals in this book with some 200 diseases of Indian crops of which the majority have been practically studied in the laboratory and in the field. In each case a description of the fungus causing the disease is given together with the appearance of the disease, followed by a concise account of the remedies which have been employed and the various methods of control which are suggested together with notes on the success of these.

Such an account of Indian crop diseases is of special use to planters whose attention is every year being more and more drawn to the importance of them and their bearing on the welfare of their estates. In a recent lecture before the Royal Society of Arts, Dr. Farmer pointed out that one cannot hope to grow a huge and practically continuous acreage of any species, especially under tropical conditions, without a constantly present risk of the incursion and rapid spread of fungoid pests, and it is not in the slightest degree probable that the planter will have peace from the attacks of fresh and as yet unknown pests.

It behoves every planter to know all that is to be known about the diseases which attack, or are likely to attack, the particular crops in which he is interested and Dr. Butler's book will do much to aid him in this study and it is one which every practical planter should have to read and constantly use. It is well illustrated and published by Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., at a very reasonable price.

The first part consists of five chapters dealing in quite simple straightforward language with the nature of fungi and the way in which they work, are reproduced and spread, how they feed and cause disease, and the general principles on which their control is based.

The second part deals with the different fungoid diseases known to attack different crops in India and in this part special chapters are devoted to Tea, Coffee, Rubber, and Vegetables.

In conclusion we may say that this book supplies a want which has long been felt in India, a hand-book in which one can readily find an account of any fungoid disease with the most up-to-date information about its life-history and control.

R. D. A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Coffee Prices.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—It seems to me that the most important question before Coffee Planters at the moment is that of Prices, far out-weighing Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I. or of the Labour Department, important though these undoubtedly are—for the more or less cost of either or both of these would be a trivial matter if 200 Rs. a ton more could be obtained—and I was pleased to read Mr. Hart's trenchant letter in your issue of the 3rd instant.

This gentleman's view is that taken by the N. M. P. A., which suggested at a meeting on the 10th July that a Committee should be formed, and the S. M. P. A. invited to join, in an attempt to fix the price of parchment coffee at 50£ per ton in the coming season.

My disappointment was great when I saw in a report of the last meeting of the S. M. P. A. what seems to me the deplorable spirit in which the suggestion was met. The proposal was kindly allowed to be an "Ideal" to be kept in view, but the meeting was "amused" at being asked to support such an "Utopian idea." I am quite open to be convinced that our idea was Utopian (and even amusing) by facts or arguments, but none of these were considered necessary in the report, and we are left in the dark as to why the N. M. P. A. is so fondly foolish. One who was present at the meeting tells me that the suggestion was hardly discussed, but gives me some of the reasons he has heard advanced against it.

(1). "One coast Firm has declined absolutely to bind itself, and others would probably not hold out long." This seems to me to depend on ourselves, and not on the Coast Firms. If we decline to sell under a certain price, how is the coast Firm to let the coffee go cheaper, beyond any of its own, if Proprietors?

(2). "As regards individual planters, very few are in a position to hold out, and need money to carry on." This is a more difficult problem, but I think much might be done to economize, and Government aid might be sought in Mysore and elsewhere—it is available to a limited extent. We had need to economize before, and did it; this seems another period that requires it, with a profit in view besides that of economy in expenditure. It would even pay those who have money to help those who have not, to enable the latter to hold out to the benefit of all—in fact, to *pool our resources*.

All other arguments were only to show certain "difficulties," and may be swept aside. Difficulties were made to be surmounted, and why should we show less of the qualities of our race than other communities? If Arabs, disguised or otherwise, can combine to keep prices down, why should not a fairly intelligent body of men do so to keep them at a fair level? We are not trying to profiteer—that unpatriotic and low-down calling is left to the middlemen who buy our produce at 10 Rs. per maund and sell at 30 Rs. or over—we are asking only a fair price, which would leave the distributors a more than fair profit even if they considered the buying public more.

Combined with this determination not to accept less than 50 Rs. per cwt., a propaganda for the increase of sales in India and the Gulf would be advisable. One argument against subscribing to any plan proposed has been "Why should a few subscribe for the benefit of many?" which seems to me inadequate, and may be answered by "why cut off your nose to spite your face?" Every day people use the roads who have paid no taxes, or derive benefit from Scientific research which they have not subscribed to —is that an argument against making roads or having Scientists?

40	tons	of coffee	at	50 Rs.	per cwt.	is 40,000
50	„	„		40 Rs.	„	40,000

Why give 10 tons of coffee to dealers? it could be better given to our boys in hospitals, while the market is steadied, and the "Arab" is done—which is something. Arabs, disguised or otherwise, are not attracted to the Coast by low prices, but by their *need of coffee*, and if they cannot procure it under 50 Rs. per cwt., they will pay that sum for it, though they may doubtless hold out till the steamer threatens to move off. The Greek Government last season paid the ruling price for coffee; and if we had combined before, the ruling price would have been much higher.

I may be hopelessly ignorant, and Utopianly optimistic—and I am quite ready to be smashed and slashed, if only those who have more leisure, brains, and knowledge than myself will take up this matter ***seriously***. Mr. G. K. Martin's scheme was sat on—money would not be forthcoming. Has any attempt been made to *see* if money would be forthcoming? Mr. Gompertz has expressed his willingness to subscribe, and I am willing—possibly many other would be, if definitely approached.

I am not able to write with much knowledge, or to organize a campaign —but I cannot help thinking that Mr. Tipping, Mr. Lake, Mr. G. K. Martin and others are able to devise something that would save us the 200 Rs. per ton we are now *supinely throwing away*, with the probability of more to follow next season. I call on them, for we want earnest and capable leaders.

My own idea is that we should, in the words of Mr. Hart "arrange a combination of planters and coast firms to be pledged not to sell coming crops at less than 50 Rs. per cwt. for parchment, and 200 Rs. per candy for Native (Havre Standard)" and that some one (I should like Mr. Aylmer Martin, if available) be appointed to organize a Coffee Sale propaganda, appointing Agents in likely places, for the pushing of coffee in India and the Gulf ports. We might subscribe 10 Rs. per ton to start with, and next year the proposed cess could take the place of subscriptions. It seems unquestionable that our 10 Rs. would soon be returned, while we might also be able, as Mr. G. K. Martin once remarked, to "laugh at the Home Market." Will the Committee be appointed to further Sales of Coffee, send out enquiries to ascertain who will pledge themselves to some such plan? If Mr. Tipping would accompany the queries by one of his persuasive efforts, I feel confident that the results will be enough to start on. Time is passing, and the "Arab" is sharpening his sword for the fray.

Yours faithfully,

C. DANVERS.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 17337-82 T.C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated the 24th August, 1918.

Gentelemen/Sir,—I have the honour to reproduce below, for your information and guidance, the following instructions received from the Food Controller regarding the preparation of adjusting bills for my countersignature:—

"I have to inform you that accounts have been reaching this Ministry "which besides covering the particular shipment, have included the adjusted "price of previous shipments by various steamers of the same garden, also "accounts covering an adjustment or rectification of various invoices on "various steamers.

"I have to add that this method of rendering accounts, will entail an "enormous amount of work to the Accountants of this Ministry in analysing "same, and will also complicate the book-keeping to a great extent.

"I have to ask you therefore to be good enough to decline to counter-"sign any such invoices and to see that no account rendering an adjust-"ment of price or correction of any previous steamer, shall include figures "referring to more than one original invoice concerned."

It follows that when adjusting the difference between, for instance, the contract rate and the temporary flat rate, a separate adjusting invoice of cost should be submitted in correction of each original invoice of cost previously furnished. For facility of drawing bills of Exchange, however, there would be no objection to several adjusting invoices being attached to a combined index invoice of cost, for the total of which the bill of Exchange can be drawn. Each separate invoice of cost as well as the combined index invoice will be countersigned by this office. The rate of Exchange and sterling equivalent should be shown on each separate invoice as well as on the index invoice. The Food Controller evidently keeps his accounts according to shipments, and not according to estates. In the past I have countersigned several adjusting invoices in which the adjustments were made by estates, *i.e.*, the shipments made by the estate per different vessels were included in the same invoice. In future adjusting invoices of cost prepared in this manner will not be countersigned. As far as possible I shall pay by cheque here sums due from the Food Controller on adjustment of accounts.

Petty adjustments due to mistakes in the calculation of stamp duty etc., etc., had best be made by cash here.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 17383/91 T.C., dated the 24th August, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Note on the work of the Director of Civil Supplies.

1. The following note is published for general information on the work of the Director of Civil Supplies :—

2. All the railways have at least one busy direction: many sections are equally busy both ways. Owing to the shortage of engines and wagons, only a portion of the traffic in the busy direction can be carried by the railways. As the railway officers themselves have no authority to discriminate between traffic, and it was essential that unessential traffic should be cut out, the Government of India empowered the Controller of Traffic, and the Directors of Civil Supplies, to distinguish between urgent, preferential, and ordinary traffic, to cut out unnecessary and cross traffic, and to see that the railway rolling stock was used to serve the most important interests of the population.

3. All traffic is now divided into—

I. Urgent	...	... (*a*) Military,
		(*b*) Civil,
II. Preferential	...	... (*a*) Military.
		(*b*) Civil.
III. Ordinary	...	... Military and Civil.

Certificates are given for military traffic by military officers, and for civil traffic by the Director of Civil Supplies. There are however some exceptions :—

Applications for wagons for goods which are coming to a port to be shipped by sea (except from Tuticorin or Dhanushkodi to Ceylon) must be sent to the Collector of Customs.

Applications for wagons for *tanning materials* must go to the Controller of Tanning Stuffs. Sea Customs Office, Madras.

Applications for wagons for *munitions* must go to the Controller of Munitions, Madras.

Applications regarding *hides and skins* must go to the Deputy Controller of Hides and Skins, Madras.

The following articles do not require certificates :—Salt, hides, personal goods and tents of an officer on transfer, kerosine oil, consigned by the oil companies, live stock and perishables.

4. Applications should be in the following form :—

Consignor and Address.	Consignee.	Number of wagons and bags.	Description of goods.	Station from.	Station to.

N.B.—(1) Madras is not a station: nor is Calcutta: but Egmore, Salt Cotaurs, Shalimar, etc, should be given.

(2) 'Smalls' only are despatched from Salt Cotaurs, and whole wagons from Royapuram.

5. If certificates are granted on the applications, the certificate is sent to the District Traffic Superintendent in charge of the section in which the station of despatch is situated, and a post card intimating the issue of the certificate is sent to the consignor, whose duty it is to find out from the railway station when his wagon is provided, *and load immediately*.

Manure.—Manure will only be certificated at the request or on the recommendation of the Director of Agriculture.

Mysore—Exports from Mysore will be certificated by the Director of Civil Supplies, Mysore. Such applications to me if approved of will be endorsed and recommended to the Director of Civil Supplies, Mysore. Exports to Mysore from Madras of grains will not be certificated by me unless the application is endorsed by the Director of Civil Supplies, Mysore (Kolar Gold Fields excepted.)

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, will be leaving on tour to Chikmaglur and Coorg on Monday the 9th instant and will not return to Headquarters for ten days.

The Director of the Labour Department, U.P.A.S.I., is leaving to-day on a short visit to the Districts and will be away a week.

We publish the Speech of the Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber, Planting Member of Council, at the last Annual Meeting.

We publish a memo of Resolutions passed at the last Annual Meeting, which have been forwarded to those concerned. Replies received will be published in due course.

The Scientific Department supplies us with an article on Helopeltis on Tea, which summarises some papers reproduced from the May issue of the Review of Applied Entomology.

We reproduce an extract from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association—their comments on a letter and resolution from the Central Travancore Planters' Association on the import of Java Tea into India.

Our correspondence columns contain letters from Messrs. Lake and Newcome on coffee prices and how to maintain a fair level.

At the request of Mr. Mead, we publish an extract from the Minutes of the Madras Chamber of Commerce on Remittance of Silver by Post.

The remainder of this issue is taken up with letters from the South Indian Association in London and correspondence of the Indian Tea Commissioner.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	73,561	0	0
Mr. J. Stuart	150	0	0
Messrs. Volkart Brothers	2,000	0	0
Mr, Campbell Hunt	30	0	0
Mr. A. J. Wright	20	0	0
Total Rs...	75,761	0	0

ANNUAL MEETING, U. P. A. S. I.

(Continued.)

Planting Member's Report.

The Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber, Planting Member of Council, read his report, which was as follows :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—You have heard the Secretary's report and the Chairman's address, and I think you will agree that very few of the activities of the Association have not been touched on.

The Chairman, however, has asked me to say something on a few subjects. One of the biggest surprises under the heading of Legislation that we have had sprung on us is the attempt to impose income-tax on tea factories. The only inkling that I got that this might be the case was the omission of the word "Factory" in Clause 2. IV of Act VII of 1918. I made enquiries locally and could get no information, so I wired to Sir Hugh Bray at Delhi and got an answer that it was too late as the discussion on the Act was over. The Indian Tea Association was equally surprised and as you know they have taken up the matter and addressed a studied and temperate protest to the Government of India. The reply from the Government of India has now been received which you have probably seen and the result of this is that as an act of grace this tax will not be imposed until the 1st April next year. I do not know if any of you have studied this reply, if you have I think that you will agree that it is a poor answer and too full of explanation and excuse to carry conviction. I think the best we can do is to leave this matter in the hands of the Indian Tea Association who have made such a good start in the matter.

The Pest Act has now been brought before the Madras Legislative Council and has been referred to a Select Committee. The main criticism which was levelled at it by some of the Indian members was in regard to the enforcement clauses and the argument used was that in its present form the Act would give another handle for oppression. This does not appear to me to be a very valid argument for it is applicable to the abuse of many other Acts and I hope this Pest Act will be passed as it stands; but if anyone wishes any alteration which is acceptable to this meeting I am willing to do my best when the Act comes before the Select Committee.

A matter which comes under the head of proposed Legislation is the proposal put forward by the Rubber Growers' Association. This proposal came to the Government of Madras through the Government of India and was at once referred to the Chairman for prompt information as to the Association's views. Fortunately the views of rubber planters had been expressed recently at the Conference in Cochin, so he was able to reply at once without reference.

A request has been made for financial assistance for rubber from Government. Before anything can be done in this matter it will be necessary to furnish a detailed statement of the nature and extent of our difficulties, and to this end I would suggest that this meeting appoints a Committee to prepare this and also to act as an Advisory Committee should Government be prepared to help.

In regard to Railways I have very little to say. The preliminary survey of the Shoranur-Mannantoddy Railway has begun. The Anamallai-Cochin tram line survey is completed, but some details in regard to construction remain to be settled. I understand that preliminary work on the Cochin Harbour is to be begun as soon as possible and you will agree that this is satisfactory. I should like to see the Mysore Association continue to press for railway connection with Mangalore. I believe our old friend the Dewan

has obtained sanction to construct from Shimoga to Arisal on the frontier; so, equally I hope, the Association will be prepared to oppose the construction of a harbour at Bhatkhal, for I fancy if there is any one who can say the correct *mantram* for a dead horse it is Sir Visvesvaraya.

In regard to the tea cess and the import of foreign tea into India, which is a connected subject I had meant to say nothing since the subject is on the agenda and not only will there be full discussion of it, but Mr. Newby is here and can make a far better exposition of the case than I can, but in view of the article which appeared in the *Madras Mail* last evening, I feel I must say something. Now the matter under no stretch of imagination can be considered part of the Planting Member's work, which I am now supposed to be talking about, but since your interests in a certain capacity are represented by myself, I have no doubt that I shall have the necessary permission with your license gentlemen to let myself go on this subject. Have I ? Well in the first place I have, with much regret, to object to our life long friend the *Madras Mail* publishing an article which outside the bound of all decency, anticipates debates. These are strong words perhaps but I think many of you who have read this article thoughtfully will realise how wise is that rule which prevents the discussion of any subject which is *sub-judice*. In any case since the debate has been started outside the room I feel that I am quite entitled to continue it. The first portion of the article to which I have to refer is connected with Mr. Newby, it has nothing whatever to do with Coffee Planters, that is a matter on which I trust an amicable solution has been found and Mr. Newby himself will admit that his zeal in following the interests of his employers, has allowed him to overstep the line of conventional courtesy and to tread on the toes of other without really intending to do so. The question that has been raised by the *Madras Mail* is quite outside these, it raises the position of the expenditure of our funds and if it does not assert, it hints, a failure to make good. You have to remember gentlemen, that the Tea Cess started long before the war and you have to admit that the problem is far different now to what it was a few years ago, and I claim that the clamour for S. India for S. Indian tea or India for Indian tea is not one that would have arisen but for the conditions imposed on us by the war, but I will admit, and you will agree, that because of those conditions it is necessary for us to hold what we can, and I am not deprecating our being told to do so. Simply I will put it to you that the reason of the Tea Cess is to promote the consumption of tea, Indian tea of course as far as possible, but any tea rather than no tea. To put it shortly if the Indian Tea Cess funds enabled us to promote tea drinking in India at the same ratio per head as the United Kingdom it would not matter where the tea came from because the world itself could not supply the demand. Arguing from that logical point it does not matter (excepting for war conditions) where the tea comes from, though, because of war conditions, it is advisable that the supply in India should be local, in as far as war conditions permit. Any other argument amounts to telling a man when that if he can't get tea he must drink gin or go without drink at all, any man who cannot see that there may be two sides to a question is not in a position to form a fair judgment and I am both pained and surprised that the *Madras Mail* has taken this attitude. Gentlemen I am afraid that is not all. " Nobody present objected to these sentiments." I can pass this by for it must be as obvious to you as it is to me that your representative on the I. T. Cess Committee had nothing to say on the matter, But the next point I must touch on for if unchallenged such a calumny might lead to a misunderstanding between the North and South which we at any rate cannot afford at such a juncture. The *Madras Mail* says " And the meeting

terminated with a few sneering remarks from the Chairman at the South Indian Press for venturing to criticise the manner in which the Cess funds are spent and at the South Indian planter for the smallness of his contribution to them." "Sneering remarks." I was present at the meeting and the Chairman treated the matter fairly, as a gentleman would, he referred to remarks that had been made and met them with facts, but I will say now myself that if the remarks in the piece to which he referred to were on a par with last night's article in the *Mail*, well, contempt would have been a better attitude than mercy. I will read to you what the Chairman said :—

"I noticed in the Southern Indian press, that in criticising Mr. Newby's last address, dissatisfaction was expressed at the manner in which the Cess funds were being expended. I am very glad Mr. Newby will shortly meet the Committee of the Southern India Planters' Association, as I am confident he will be able to convince them that the cess work in Southern India is not being neglected; and I may mention that about 30 per cent. of the sum spent in promoting the sale of tea in India last year was expended in Southern India. I would further point out that the Committee realise that the Southern Indian planters who contribute about 8 per cent. of the cess funds are entitled, through their representatives on the General Committee, or by direct correspondence with the Executive Committee to put forward their views in regard to the manner in which the cess funds should be spent ; and assure them that their views will always be carefully considered by the Committee."

I have told you that, I meant to pass the matter over in my remarks, but because I have been forced into speaking I do not choose you to take it that I consider views contrary to those expressed in Calcutta must be wrong. I only hope that in your consideration of that matter you will realise that in this and other matters that there is another side to the question and that you will not stultify yourselves by passing any resolution that ignores it. I have only to add that owing to lack of time while I was in Calcutta that I am indebted to Mr. Pinches for his help in verifying figures as to work done.

The purchase of coffee by the Greek Government appears to have saved the situation for coffee, and as the Secretary pointed out our thanks for this are due to the Coffee Deputation that went to Delhi and to the Governments of India and Madras and I hope that nothing on our part will jeopardise our footing in this new market.

I should just like to refer to the work done by our friend, Mr. Chadwick. That he went on his mission is due to the Government of Madras, but we may congratulate ourselves that, in conjunction with the Madras Chamber of Commerce, we agreed to guarantee a certain portion of his expenses and now we have three reports, two of them prepared in collaboration with Mr. G. W. Black which are interesting and useful and as far as we are concerned free of cost.

I have been asked to mention the constitutional reform, but I do not think this is a subject that we can usefully discuss at the meeting. The subject is one which we cannot neglect as it touches the basis of our existence in India but I can say our interests have not been lost sight of and will, I fancy, receive full expression both out here and at Home.

I wish to thank my friend, Sir Gordon Fraser, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, for assistance and advice on matters that I have referred to him and I hope from now on there will be a growing apbroachment between two bodies that represent the bulk of European interests in Southern India.

MEMO OF RESOLUTIONS.

ALTERATION OF RULE 2.

I. "That the alteration of Rule 2 made by the Council by substituting the word "Madras" for the word "Bangalore" and by substituting the words "1918" for the words "each year" be and the same is hereby confirmed.—*Carried.*

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.

II. That the Control Committee Scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. be accepted in all its main principles including the all-in subscription—*Carried.*

RAILWAY FACILITIES.

III. That the Government of India be asked through the Government of Madras to do their utmost to facilitate the transport of planting produce over the Railway for sale in the Country, together with such fertilisers, insecticides, cooly supplies and factory requisites as are necessary for the preservation of our Industry—*Carried.*

COCHIN HARBOUR.

That this Association do affirm the Resolution passed at 1915 Annual Meeting which reads as follows:—

IV. That this Association is strongiy in favour of the construction of a Harbour at Cochin which would be open throughout the year and that the Government be asked to continue dredging operations at once, so that the feasibility or otherwise of the scheme may be definitely settled at an early date.—*Carried.*

INCOME-TAX ON TEA.

V. That this Association do resolve to leave the matter of income-tax on Tea Planters in the hands of the Indian Tea Association and do thank the Indian Tea Association for its powerful advocacy of our interests.—*Carried.*

IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

VI. That the Government of India be asked through the Government of Madras to place a tax of 4 annas per lb. on all tea that is imported into India. That the Indian Tea Association (which has already asked to have Java Tea prohibited) be asked directly to assist us; and that the attention of the Government be also called to the extremely inferior quality of some imported tea and that a standard of quality be enforced.—*Carried.*

SHIPPING FREIGHTS AND TONNAGE.

VII. That this meeting confirms the Chairman's action in agreeing to Rubber Growers' Associations proposal as out-lined in Revenue Department letter No. 921 G/18—1 of the 26th June 1918 and is in favour of immediate action being taken by the Government of India in forwarding the matter.—*Carried.*

SHIPPING FREIGHTS AND TONNAGE.

VIII. That the Association approach the Government with a view to arrange for the supply of extra tonnage during the coffee shipping season between the West Coast Ports including Mangalore and Bombay and also the usual special direct steamer to Australia.—*Carried.*

FEES FOR ANALYSES DONE BY THE U. P. A. S. I.

IX. That the Association would be glad to accept an increase of 25 per cent., if Mr. Stuart thought it necessary. They had been getting analytical work done a good deal cheaper than they could get it done in open market. That the U. P. A. S. I. should thank the Director for taking all this trouble on our behalf.—*Carried.*

COFFEE CESS.

X. That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be asked to write to all affiliated Coffee Associations drawing their attention to the Circular letter published in the *Planters' Chronicle* of the 27th July, and requesting them to find out from all their members whether they are in favour of the proposal to ask the Government to levy a Cess of Rs. 10 per ton on all exported coffee for the purpose of advertising the sale of coffee in India so that the U. P. A. S. I. may if necessary take action in the matter—*Carried.*

COFFEE EXPORT TO UNITED KINGDOM.

XI. That in view of the improved position of shipping and in consideration of the anticipated heavy coffee crops in the coming season, the Government of Madras be requested to ask the Imperial Government to reconsider the prohibition of Imports of British East India Coffee to the United Kingdom and, if possible, to supply shipping for at least a portion of the coming crop—*Carried.*

MILITARY COFFEE RATION.

XII. That with a view to help Coffee Planters to dispose of their crops, the Military Authorities be requested to consider the desirability of issuing Indian grown coffee to Native troops as a ration and that with the object of meeting the requirements of the army without any delay, the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., do write and ask the authorities to intimate by the end of December 1918, or earlier if possible, what quantity of coffee will be required for issue to troops in 1919.—*Carried.*

RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

XIII. That the representative of the Rubber Industry on the Executive Council of the U. P. A. S. I. be the Chairman of the Local Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association, provided always that he is a Member of the Rubber Growers' Association and that the Committee of the Local Branch shall include all subscribing Members or their representatives to the Rubber Growers' Association and not, as at present, of an elected Member.—*Carried.*

RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

XIV. That local Associations ask the Rubber acreage still outstanding from the Rubber Growers' Association amounting approximately to 3,500 acres to join without further delay.—*Carried.*

STATISTICS.

XV. That this Association urges on affiliated Associations the necessity for preparing correct and complete returns for statistical purposes.—*Carried.*

STATISTICS.

XVI. That in view of the fact that the Mysore Economic Conference is preparing to take up the matter of statistics, it shall be and is hereby resolved that the Government of India be requested to publish a report on the production of coffee similar to that published for tea.—*Carried.*

STATISTICS.

XVII. That the Statistical Department be requested to publish a report on the production of rubber in India on the lines of the tea report.—*Carried.*

COFFEE CESS.

XVIII. That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be asked to find out from all curers in Southern India whether they would undertake to collect a cess on all cured coffee with a view to raising a fund for pushing the consumption of Indian coffee.—*Carried.*

STATISTICS.

XIX. That this Association do purchase a sufficient number of copies of the Tea Report issued by the Statistical Department for free distribution among members of affiliated Associations."—*Carried.*

THE BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION.

XX. That it is essential that U. P. A. S. I. becomes affiliated to the B. E. P. O. and that all Associations affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. be asked to subscribe an average of Rs.110 for this year, towards the annual subscription of £100 and that when the re-organisation of the U. P. A .S. I. is accomplished the future annual subscription be paid by that body.—*Carried.*

PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.

XXI. That this Association asks for the favourable consideration of an Imperial preferential tariff on tea and coffee and rubber grown in the British Empire, the more so as at this crisis in the markets of the world, the mother country and the Dominions are making common cause with this object in view and recommends that the Government of India, through the Government of Madras, be asked to agree to, and negotiate for, through the Secretary of State for India for the following as regards coffee (1) to permit export of 1918-19 Indian crop to the United Kingdom and Australia; (2 the total prohibition of import of other than British grown coffee into Ceylon, Australia, Aden, Mesopotamia and the Straits Settlements; (3) to prohibit the export of all coffee from the U. K. to countries east of Port Said—*Carried.*

S. I. P. BENEVOLENT FUND.

XXII. That this Meeting ask the Finance Committee to suspend the rule of the S. I. P. Benevolent Fund which reads Grants to non-subscribers to the fund shall not exceed Rs. 500 during any financial year of the U. P. A. as a special case in favour of the three sons of the late Mr. A. T. Imray and that a sum of Rs. 3,000 be granted for their benefit.—*Carried.*

INDIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

XXIII. That this Association, while admitting that Government has every right to demand the services of all British subjects for the purpose of helping in the defence of the country, consider that there are at present many cases where owing to distances and paucity of numbers, it is impossible to arrange for the proper training of individuals, without seriously affecting trade and industries in the mofussil, and therefore, request that tribunals may be appointed to consider such cases and with power to exempt such individuals as may seem fit from training, and that proper arrangements for safeguarding the wives and families of men called out to attend Concentration Camps should be made.—*Carried.*

RUBBER MYCOLOGIST.

XXIV. That this Association accepts the suggestion of the Mundakayam Planters' Association that a guarantee be given for a special Rubber Mycologist branch of the Scientific Department for the next five years and do undertake to give effect to the appointment as soon as possible.—*Carried.*

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Helopeltis on Tea.

Java publications for May contain several articles on the control of *Helopeltis* on Tea and the following summaries of these papers are reproduced from the May issue of the *Review of Applied Entomology* :—

On a tea estate where about 204,000 lb. of tea was plucked in 1914, the yield rose to about 374,000 lb. in 1915 and a crop of 440,000 lb. was expected in 1916. Instead of this, only about 189,000 lb. was obtained owing to an outbreak of *Helopeltis*, which began after the drought of 1914, became disquieting in June 1915, and reached its maximum in April 1916.

In 1917 more methodical remedial measures were carried out. The tea pluckers collected *Helopeltis* in the morning up to about 8-30 a.m. in the plots where they worked and again in the evening in any place they chose. From June onwards about 100 coolies were employed in collecting the bugs in the plots already dealt with by the pluckers, after an 8-day interval. These coolies worked from early morning to about 11-30 a.m. An additional measure was spraying with a 2 per cent. soap solution after pruning; after 7 or 8 days the plots were again treated and this was done over a period of about 5 months. Gardens in which little wood was formed after pruning and which contained heavily attacked plots were not pruned at first, but after the bushes had recovered somewhat, they were subjected to a light horizontal pruning and subsequently carefully plucked. After the heavy infestation of 1916, which was followed by a severe attack of red rust, ordinary pruning was discontinued and light under-pruning was effected to remove badly developed twigs unsuitable for plucking. This facilitated collection and also rendered the conditions less favourable to the larvae. After the application of these measures an improvement was noticed. Though enormous numbers of *Helopeltis* are still captured, the injury has decreased, and the measures adopted are undoubtedly the chief factor in this improvement. This is confirmed by the fact that whereas at first the larvæ formed 50 per cent of the catches this proportion has now fallen to 10 per cent.

Another paper records the author's experience as manager of a tea estate where local conditions do not favour control. The climate is very damp, the rains set in early, the ground is broken with deep depressions, the plants are still young (the oldest being 6 years old) and therefore weak, and furthermore the East Monsoon (dry season) is particularly damp.

In 1914-1915 the entire estate was severely attacked. The first remedial measures applied (in 1915) was the rapid pruning of a large area but the collection of *Helopeltis* was the chief measure relied on. The estate was divided into lightly, heavily and very heavily infested areas, those along the border being kept separate. In those border areas that were moderately attacked collection was only carried out for about 1½ hours in the early morning and in the evening; adults composed the bulk of these catches. To check this work a gang of special collectors went over the border areas once every 3 or 4 days. As regards other parts of the estate, moderately infested gardens were visited once daily and more heavily infested ones two or three times a day. Collection was done on all possible occasions, by as many workers as possible, and in nearly all weathers. European supervision was constant. Pruning was done with the wind, as advised by Leafmans.

A comparison between a portion of this estate and a similar portion of a neighbouring one—where the campaingn was not so intensive and cost only three-fifths as much —shows that the value of the increased yield was three times that of the extra cost, and furthermore that the estate was rendered a more valuable property.

On certain estates sulphur fumigation has proved very useful against *Helopeltis*. Coolies placed in a circle around an infested plot were provided with sticks to which sulphur cartridges were attacked. A cartridge could thus be held beneath each bush or twig. The men gradually advanced towards the centre of the circle until the whole plot had been fumigated. If the right time is chosen (about 6 p. m.) the fumes will hang about the bushes for a considerable period. Each plot was fumigated thrice on three consecutive afternoons using 11 cartridges an acre each afternoon. After a 5-day interval, during which collection was effected daily, this triple fumigation was repeated and again followed by collection for five days. As a result the normal collection of *Helopeltis* was soon found to require only 7 women for 4 acres owing to the limited number of insects present. In the event of a windy afternoon fumigation may be carried out on the following morning from 6 to 7 a.m., but is less satisfactory. On one estate this operation was carried on for a period of 6 weeks on two occasions only in 8 years, and the 700 acres concerned are still free from *Helopeltis*. In another case six weeks a year was found necessary. The cost of the sulphur cartridges was about 48*s* an acre for the six weeks, that of wages being about 11*d*. an acre for each day of fumigation. Collection is a valuable measure during the East Monsoon (dry season) and even if only a few specimens are captured then, the work is valuable, as these are the brood-mothers giving rise to the individuals that occur in the rainy season. The plants were also carefully manured so as to promote vigorous growth. Prunings and other rubbish were burnt without delay.

As pointed out by Dr. Bernard in his preface to this and the preceding paper, the success of this fumigation is evidently due to the circumstance that the infested plots were of a size permitting them to be surrounded by the operators.

An investigation was made to determine if *Helopeltis* actually deposits eggs and if its larvae develop on various plants commonly believed to be food plants of this pest. In addition to Cacao it can be definitely said that *Helopeltis Antonii* can develop fully on *Anona muricata*, *Bixa Orellana* (Anatto) *Psidium guajava* (Guava), Stachy tarpheta indica (a common weed in India with spikes of blue flowers) *Eriodendron anfractuosum* (Silk Cotton-not Bombax) *Cryngium foetidum* (a prickly umbelliferous plant other species of which occur in India) *Melastoma malabathricum* (an Indian tree).

Helopeltis injury and eggs were noticed on *Capsicum annuum Chrysanthemum frutescens*, Mango, Tamarind, *Cynometra Cauliflora* (a shrub cultivated in gardens) and *Nephelium lappaceum* (a fruit tree allied to the Lichi). These plants should therefore be eliminated as far as possible from Tea estates.

In spite of repeated tests *Helopeltis* was not seen to deposit eggs on Ageratum, Jack, Biders (Spanish needle) Duranta, Ficus or Tephrosia.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD.
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

JAVA TEA.

The following is an extract from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association held on the 14th August, 1918.

IMPORTATION OF JAVA TEA INTO INDIA.—A letter of 17th July from the Central Travancore Planters' Association gave the terms of a resolution adopted by them at their last general meeting expressing regret at the decision of the Australian Government to permit again the import of Java tea into the Commonwealth. As the Government of India had not, at the time when the Australian Government prohibited the import of non-British tea, taken similar action but continued to allow Java teas into India, it was not surprising that this inconsistency had been used as one of the arguments in favour of raising the embargo on Java teas into Australia. The resolution proceeded to request the Indian Government to prohibit the import of all outside teas, thereby safeguarding Indian producers, who would have a large surplus of tea over and above the quantity taken by the Food Controller. In forwarding the copy of the resolution the Central Travancore Association expressed the hope that its terms would be supported.

The Committee discussed the question. They had noted that, at the half-yearly meeting of the Indian Tea Cess Committee held on 31st July, Mr. Newby, the Cess Commissioner for India, had referred to the fact that the quantity of tea coming into India was increasing. He pointed out that there was no difficulty about booking goods by rail from Bombay eastward, but that there were severe restrictions on booking from Calcutta westward. It followed that if foreign tea could be got to Bombay it could be much more easily distributed in the west, the north-west and in Central India, than tea from Calcutta. "I do not" Mr. Newby said, "want "to suggest that the import of foreign tea should be stopped. That "would be fatal unless railway traffic westward is made easier for us : for "business on the Bombay side would then be at a standstill and the trade "would be killed. I believe now, and I have always believed, that we can "oust imported tea by fair competition, but we must have transport facilities." The position had changed materially since the date of the Cess meeting, as now it was possible to send whatever tea was required from Calcutta to Bombay. And in any case it had to be kept in view that tea would always be sent from South India to the west coast without such difficulties as were experienced in the case of despatches from Northern India.

On the general question of the import of Java tea into India, the Committee agreed with the Central Travancore Planters' Association that it was unfortunate that the Government of India had not last year taken similar action to that of the Australian Government in prohibiting the import of non-British teas. It was understood that the Australian Government had now removed the embargo because of representations received by them from Australian importers that the maximum price fixed by Government for tea was not a practicable proposition unless Java teas were admitted. But it seemed to the Committee that, if it were the case that large quantities of Java tea were being imported into Bombay and Karachi, the Government of India might again be approached with a view to having such imports stopped, the changed conditions of traffic now being such that all India's requirements could well be supplied by Indian tea. It was decided in the first place to ascertain from the Director of Statistics what quantities of Java tea were being imported into India.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Coffee Prices.

Wartyhully Estate, Saklaspur P. O.,
Mysore State,
September 3rd, 1918.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter in last week's issue under the above heading I should like to defend my Association from a possible charge of imbecility by saying that it was not the proposal to fix the price of coffee but the fact that the N. M. P. A. having put forward the suggestion themselves, chose a committee of S. M. P. A. members to prepare the scheme, leading us to infer that they themselves found the task beyond them, that caused a little amusement (and goodness knows we get little enough nowadays) to those present at the last S. M. P. A. meeting.

The committee named by them, however, although not even yet officially invited to do so by the N. M. P. A., have met and discussed the matter but found it bristling with so many difficulties that they were unable to make any headway with it.

The second difficulty in the way of fixing prices mentioned in Mr. Danvers' letter, *viz.*, that few individual Planters are in a position to hold out, is a very real one and the remedies suggested will not, I fear, be found practicable. We most of us are not spending more than is absolutely necessary on our Estates nowadays and unfortunately too much economy in working a Coffee Estate leads to deterioration.

Another and in my opinion even greater difficulty is the fact that in Mysore five-sixths of the area under coffee, producing about half the crop, is in the hands of Indians, quite a number of whom nowadays are making parchment coffee. I fear that it would never be possible to get them to combine to hold up their coffee for a fixed price.

Nobody would be more pleased than my Association to see such a desirable thing as the fixing of the price of coffee at a fair rate and I entirely agree with what Mr. Danvers writes as to the necessity of our doing something to help ourselves.

I can, moreover, assure him that the Executive of my Association has not been idle and we hope very shortly to be in a position to publish the outlines of a scheme for advertising and increasing the sales of our coffee in India and adjacent countries.

It will, however, depend for its success upon the wholehearted support of all coffee Planters' without which nothing can be done.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
C. LAKE,
President, S. M. P. A.

Coffee Prices.

Cowcoody, Somwarpet,
N. Coorg, Sept. 4, 1918.

TO THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—Mr. Danvers' letter was one to make the heart of the coffee planter rejoice. It is perfect, and there is nothing to add, but I would go one step further.

Personally, I regard this question as the one thing that matters in coffee, as the great test as to whether, from a business point of view, it will be worthwhile joining the new and expensive U. P. A. S. I. scheme.

At the U. P. A. S. I. meeting was this all important subject pressed to its logical conclusion by our leaders, namely action? To an outsider, it rather reads as if after an academical discussion, the subject was quietly and tactfully given its quietus by a knock on the head from the chairman's hammer. Or, was it dropped out of regard to the susceptibilities of Mr. Newby? To the rank and file of coffee planters the great fear is that we shall not get a fair show in the one thing that matters, markets and fair prices. Given this and most could and would probably eventually join the new scheme, if for no other reason than charity and bonhomie.

As one who resents compulsion, I quite agree that those who are keen on a cess should start it now and then try and persuade the others. Associations should get the names of those willing to pay 10 a ton and their probably crop and of those curers willing to join. Why should not these also pay 10 a ton for every ton through their works? They have already raised the rate, in a ring, by 7/8 a ton to cover the extra cost of bags, so presumably they, at any rate, are making the same profit from curing as before the war. Will not Mr. Danvers become one of our leaders and help to start the show in earnest? With Messrs. Tipping, Lake and Martin a great deal could be done even this year. Let our leaders lead and we of the inarticulate crowd will follow.

Yours faithfully,
L. NEWCOME.

Labour Department.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—As a critic of the Labour Department I am glad to be able to answer "I don't think's" query.

"If you wish anything done get a busy man to do it."

The way in which the Deputy Director sends one quick and reliable information would surprise me if I did not know he was a master of organisation.

I venture to think Sir, if all the Agencies I do business with had been run on the same lines, there would not have been so much talk of reorganisation to-day.

"SENDAMANGALAM".

Coffee Combination.

The United Coffee Supply Company, Limited.
Coimbatore, 28th August, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Henry Hart's letter in your recent issue we have the pleasure to enclose a copy of our August price list from which you will note that so far from raw coffee not being offered to the public at less than a rupee per lb we have been quoting *less than 8 as. a lb.* for all grades of Plantation coffee except Peaberry for about 18 months; this includes packing in small bags and in some cases we make a return to dealers.

Yours faithfully,
THE UNITED COFFEE SUPPLY CO., LD.
U. S.

Remittance of Silver by Post.

The Mooply Valley Rubber Company, Limited.
Palapilly P. O., S. India,
August 30th, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—I will be obliged if you will publish the enclosed extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, for the information of your readers.

Yours, etc.,
A. H. MEAD.

REMITTANCE OF SILVER BY POST.

14. Read (1) a letter, dated the 30th June, 1918, from Mr. A. H. Mead, Palapilly, informing the Chamber of the hardship that is caused to the members of the Planting Community by the prohibition of sending silver coins through the post, and asking the Chamber to take the matter up with Government; (2) a letter No. 31-7399, dated the 23rd July, 1918, from the Accountant-General, Madras, informing the Chamber that he has addresssd the Postmaster General, Madras, suggesting the relaxation of the restriction of transmission of small coin by post.

Resolved to thank the Accountant-General and to inform him that the Chamber awaits a further communication, desiring him to treat the matter as urgent.

W. D. ST. LEGER,
Secretary.

Madras, 5th August, 1918.

South Indian Association in London.

21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.
London, June 27th, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I received your cablegram on 6th June reading:—

"Knight.—Please place following resolution before Home Government. In view of uncertainty which exists as to the future of Rubber and of the difficulty many properties are having in being financed, this Association urges a definite pronouncement be made with regard to Government requirements and export of Rubber be controlled and that allotments of shipping space be made to each estate on basis of current season's estimate and Rubber be treated as other priority cargo. Please advise R. G. A. Knight also that R. G. A. should immediately ask for general restriction in interest of the industry as it is exceedingly improbable, markets can be found for this current season's unrestricted output."

A deputation waited upon the India Office and I enclose Mr. Cox's letter of 18th June with details of the interview.

A cablegram was sent you yesterday, reading:—

"Question restriction all Rubber being taken up with Government by R. G. A. Deputation waited on India Office. See no hope of any financial help or shipping opportunities being given. Suggest only thing to be done make strong representations to Indian Government to finance estates on same terms as Coffee."

You will note Mr. Kershaw of the India Office wants the actual yearly yield of Rubber for the whole of South India for 1915, 1916 and 1917; if you can let me have these figures I shall be much obliged.

Your letter of 17th May has just come to hand with enclosures as stated. These papers had been sent to me in advance, and a meeting of this Association was held on the 24th instant to consider the re-organisation scheme of the U. P. A. S. I., when the following resolution was carried *nem con*, and it was cabled out to Sir Fairless Barber as requested as follows:—

"Your letter twenty-seventh April. Resolved this meeting is of opinion that scheme put forward by Control Committee would best meet needs of Planting community and agree recommend its members support it resolution ends. Hope an amicable agreement will be arrived at."

I enclose several circulars that have been issued to members on this side for your information.

Yours faithfully,
For H. M. KNIGHT,
A. F. BRUCE, Acting Secretary.

London, 18th June, 1918.

Dear Mr. Knight,—I enclose a short statement which I have drawn up detailing the interview the deputation recently had with Mr. Kershaw at the India Office in connection with the shipment of rubber from South India.

Mr. Kershaw is extremely anxious to obtain the figures showing the actual yearly yield of rubber for the whole of South India, and so far as I am aware such figures are not obtainable on this side. As I think it is of importance that Mr. Kershaw should have these figures in his possession as soon as possible, it has occurred to me that the best way to get them would be for the South Indian Association to cable to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. asking him to cable as quickly as possible the figures for the last three years, and if you are in agreement perhaps you would give instructions for such a cable to be sent.

I enquired at the Travancore Tea Company's office to-day to know whether you were in town, but found you were away, otherwise I would have run down to see you.

Yours sincerely,
(SD.) W. H. COX,

H. M. Knight, Esq.,
Kensington.

Messrs. Pinckney, Bannantine and Cox formed a deputation from the Rubber Sub-Committee of the South Indian Association to Mr. Kershaw of the India Office on the question of the shipment and financing of South Indian rubber.

Mr. Kershaw received the deputation very sympathetically, and arranged for Mr. Lucas of the Finance Department to be present to explain the financial position. Mr. Lucas gave no hope whatever of the Finance Department's being able to give any help financially, and in fact said that although a certain quantity of rubber was on the Priority List it was now to be entirely cut out, as rupees were urgently wanted for food stuffs.

Mr. Kershaw then intimated that as no financial help could be expected from this side, the only thing to be done was for Planting Associations and estate owners to represent the serious condition as strongly as possible to the Indian Government, with a view to getting them to help financially on the same terms as they were helping the coffee estates.

With regard to shipping. Mr. Kershaw could hold out no hope of getting any tonnage for Southern India from the Shipping Controller, but suggested that the rubber should be sent to Colombo, as possibly occasional opportunities for shipment to U. K. might be available there.

As regards the question of restriction of output, we understand that this matter is being taken up with the Government by the R. G. A., and the deputation impressed upon Mr. Kershaw, the necessity, if anything comes of this, of seeing that Southern India were not left out in the cold, but should come into any arrangement that is eventually made, the same as other rubber-producing countries. This being so, it will be necessary to obtain figure showing the actual yearly output of rubber for the whole of Southern India, say, for the last three years, and we hope the South Indian Association can arrange to get these figures.

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C., 3, London, 24th June, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.
Tea Section.
JWC/AEB.

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, Westminster,
London, 21st June, 1918.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the Southern Indian Tea now lying in Cochin and Calicut, which, owing to the Monsoon having broken early making it impossible to ship these Teas as was originally intended from these ports. I have to inform you that this Ministry has cabled the Tea Commissioner, Calcutta, to the effect that all Tea lying at Cochin and Calicut at the Tea Commissioner's instructions, should be railed to Madras at the expense of this Ministry, but in this connection, I have to state that Growers will pay these rail charges, if the Teas are lying at Calicut and Cochin without the Tea Commissioner's instructions, and also, Growers will pay the rail charges from the garden to Madras should future shipments be made from Madras.

I have to add that as regards tonnage for Southern Indian Tea, this matter is receiving the attention of this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) RICHARD PIGOTT,
Director of Tea Supplies.

Secretary, Indian Tea Association,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.

South Indian Association in London.
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3, London, 18th June, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

The Ministry of food have supplied a list of sailing dates of all Tea Shipments from Madras to the United Kingdom from 1st November 1917 to end of May 1918, taken over by the Food Controller, which is forwarded for information.

At the same time, his reply on the question of covering the risk on Teas while in godown prior to shipment and the risk of shipment, which was recently brought to the notice of the Ministry of Food, is as follows:—

"It will not be necessary for the growers to cover any period during which the tea is at the risk of the Food Controller and that this Ministry could not reimburse the grower any such insurance. I have further to add that it will be necessary for growers to advise the Tea Commissioner of any and all tea when it ceases to be at the risk of the grower.

"I have again to draw your attention to the fact that the risk in placing the teas on board will still be the risk of the seller, although the teas may not be shipped as from one calendar month after the date specified in the Notice, or one calendar month after the date of arrival, whichever be the later date."

A. F. BRUCE.

	Port.	*Sailed.*
Clan McQuarrie	Madras	... 17/11/17
Shieznoko Maru	,,	... 17/11/17
Clan Mackay	,,	... 2/12/17
Cheviot Range (Sunk)	,,	... 20/12/17
Clan Buchanan	,,	.. 21/12/17
Manora	,,	... 23/12/17
Clan McNiel	,,	... 27/ 1/18
Marvada	,,	... 21/ 2/18
Roumelian	Tuticorin	... 27/ 2/18
Clan Menzies	,,	... 27/ 2/18
Clan Macaulay	Cochin	... 25/ 3/18
Malatian	Tuticorin	... 10/ 5/18
Haiuinian	Cochin	... 29/ 5/18
Phidias	,,	... 1/ 6/18

Indian Tea Association (London)
21, Mincing Lane, L. C. 3
London, 11th June, 1918.

The following correspondence is circulated for information of all Members.

3rd June, 1918.

THE SECRETARY,
Ministry of Food,
Tea Branch.

Dear Sir,—A question has been put forward in regard to the responsibility as to rent and insurance on Teas bought under the Tea Contract 1917.

The following is an extract from a letter I have received to-day :—

"Under the terms of the Contract, if teas are not taken delivery of by the Tea Commissioner within a month of the date named, he assumed the risk of warehouse rent, etc. Presumably he would also on such teas assume the risk of the insurance, and any risk in putting the teas on board ship, but we shall be glad to know if this is so.

"We understand that on teas which are not detained more than a month at the port of shipment the risk of insurance is the producers up to the point the teas are on board."

I understand that teas are at the risk of the Growers up to one month at port of shipment including the risk of placing teas on board, but thereafter all tea both in warehouse and any risk of shipping is at the risk of the Tea Commissioner, but I would be glad to have a reply giving your view, to be able to answer this enquiry.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

Tea Section
JWC/AEB.

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, Westminster,
London, 4th June, 1918.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter dated June 3rd as regards rent and insurance on teas bought by the Food Controller from the Indian Growers, under the 1917 Contract. I have to inform you that the Food Controller will be responsible for any godown rent or insurance as from one Calendar month after the date specified in the notice or one Calendar month after the

date of arrival, whichever be the later date, but risk in placing teas on board will still be the risk of the seller although the teas may not be shipped as from one Calendar month after the date specified in the notice or one Calendar month after the date of arrival, whichever be the later date.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) RICHARD PIGOTT,
Director of Tea Supplies.

Acting Secretary,
Indian Tea Association, 21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.

Indian Tea Association (London)
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3. London, 5th June, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

Ministry of Food.
Room 438.
Palace Chamber, Westminster.
London, 1st June, 1918.

THE SECRETARY,
Indian Tea Association, 21, Mincing Lane, E. C.

DUPLICATE PAYMENTS.

Dear Sir,—I understand that your Association have now agreed to the principle that in cases where payments have been made in duplicate for the same parcels of Tea, the second payment by means of Sterling Draft drawn in India on this Ministry is to be cancelled, leaving the original payment, which was made by this Department against Documents presented by the Agents or correspondents of the Shippers in the United Kingdom to stand.

In cases where Rupees have only been received against the second payment, the drafts are to be cancelled by means of a refund of the Sterling amount of the Draft two days before the maturity of the draft.

In cases where a double amount of Rupees have been received, either owing to the fact that a draft was drawn and negotiated at the time of shipment, or that a remittance from here was subsequently made, the Rupee amount will be refunded to the Tea Commissioner in Calcutta, this being the actual amount of the Rupees obtained by the negotiation of the draft plus interest upon this amount, from the date of the receipt of the Rupees until the date of repayment calculated at the rates for money locally prevailing.

Perhaps you will kindly be good enough to circularise your Members to this effect.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) A. R. FOUCAR,
Assistant Director of Finance.

Indian Tea Association, London,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3, London, 30th May, 1918.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

1918 CONTRACT.

The Committee have been in negotiation with the Ministry of Food in regard to the purchase of a proportion of the 1918 crop, and the following are the terms upon which the Ministry are prepared to enter into a Contract, and the Committee recommend members to accept same: -

Period ... 1 year from 1st June, 1918.

Quantity... 66% of crop from each estate in addition to any tea which the Tea Commissioner may have contracted for during May.

Price ... Same as 1917, the allowance for increased cost to be a minimum of ½d. per lb. and a further ¼d. if cost of production proved to be ¾d. per lb. or more in 1918 as compared with average for three pre-war years, such allowance to be a flat rate for Northern or Southern India, not for individual concerns.

Payment... As to 60% in rupees in India, balance in sterling for London concerns. For Indian concerns rupees in full in India.

Other terms same as 1917 Contract with certain minor alterations.

A. F. B.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 18043-87 T.C.

From Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea from Northern and Southern India to the Food Controller.

Dated the 28th August, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I reproduce below for your information and guidance the following extract from a letter dated the 27th June, 1918, received from the Director of Tea Supplies, London:—

"With reference to shippers advising you of Tea shortshipped, I have to inform you that it is not necessary for you to forward this correspondence to this Ministry, as providing the Bills of Lading and Garden Invoices agree with the cabled quantity, whether any Teas are shortshipped or not, does not affect this Ministry. I would also take this opportunity of informing you that this Ministry has had to lay down the very definite rule only to take over the Teas from the ship on the Bill of Lading quantity. If any Teas are short of the Bill of Lading quantity, this Ministry claims on the ship, if any Teas are over the Bill of Lading quantity, are rendered to the Bonded Warehouse on ship's account and eventually bought by this Ministry from the Shipping Company. Should any of the shippers, therefore, at your end, be under the impression that certain Teas have been shipped without a tally, it would be advisable for them to get into communication with the Shipping Company and not with you.

"I have to enclose herein copies of various garden invoices and also the outturn from the Bonding Concerns in London. You will see from same, the discrepancies between the Garden Invoice and the actual outturn of the Tea as regards grades and the quantities of the grades. I have to ask you to advise shippers of the absolute necessity of sending accurate detailed particulars of the actual Tea shipped, as otherwise, when these differences arise, all the Teas have to be delayed till the ship is completed before the particular invoices or invoice can be got into distribution."

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 18088/96 T.C., dated the 28th August, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

An interesting account of a manurial experiment with Hevea Rubber is extracted from the *India-Rubber Journal*.

At the General Annual Meeting of the Kanan Devan Planters' Association, an account of which appears in this issue, the meeting recorded its appreciation of the past services of the late Mr. A. W. L. Vernede and expressed sympathy with his family. The death, from wounds received in France, of Lieut. R. Ll. Peel was also recorded with regret.

Reference was made by the retiring Honorary Secretary to the amount of game poaching, and especially the poaching of trout fry, that was prevalent and regret was expressed that, notwithstanding reminders, Government had made no move in the matter.

With regard to Coffee, the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Lee, mentioned a purchase of 2,000 tons by the Greek Government, which had helped to reduce stock, and trusted that it might be possible to secure further contracts of this nature.

The Chairman also referred to the amendment of the Income-tax by Government, which brought in tea as taxable, and said that the I. T. A. had protested both on their own behalf and on that of the U. P. A. S. I. No reply had yet been received.

Interesting correspondence on the prices of coffee and the pushing of Coffee Sales from Messrs. Foster, Lake, Hayward, Hill, Danvers and others.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Rubber Manurial Experiments.

An account of a manurial experiment with Hevea Rubber conducted on Poerwodjojo Estate, Netherlands Indies, is given in the *India-Rubber Journal*, *LV.* 26.

The author, Dr. A. J. Ultee says :—

"Rubber planters in the Netherlands Indies (perhaps also their British colleagues), generally believe that manuring of rubber trees is superfluous. Several reasons can be given as to the origin of the opinion; for instance, many estates have been only recently established on virgin soil, which is generally expected to contain plenty of plant food required for good growth of the trees. Furthermore, few well started and satisfactorily carried out experiments have been tried in this respect, consequently scientific advisers are unable to convince the planters by means of well reasoned arguments as to the use of manuring. The object of manuring is, of course. to obtain a substantial compensation for the money spent and the trouble taken, but it is not so easy to calculate this compensation for rubber.

In the case of annual cultures, as, for instance, sugar, the results of manuring can be easily determined when comparing the proceeds of manured areas with those obtained from areas which have not been manured. But with a permanent forest culture like rubber, there are other points to be considered. We may mention the important question of bark renewing, to which point Mr. Herbert Wright has drawn the attention on many occasions.

The favourable influence of manuring on bark renewing is not easily shown by experiments; it is very difficult to express the value of the results obtained in this respect in terms of pounds, shillings and pence. Manuring (as well as changkolling) can have a very favourable influence on the growth of the trees; very often the branch system develops more rapidly and the foliage gets a healthier aspect; but neither of these advantages can be expressed in money.

Only the increase of the rubber output, which in the long run cannot fail to be obtained, can show the productiveness of manuring.

The fact that the experiments made are so very few in number is certainly due to the great difficulties involved. As the experiments are usually made on the estate, and as the manager and the employees on an estate cannot sacrifice too much time to this work, it is generally advisable to start the experiments on a small scale. There can be no question about a large number of experimental fields; this would be undesirable, as in that case several tappers would be connected with the experiment, and individual influence would have to be taken into account. This would lead to disagreeable complications, especially for the Besoki district, where changes in labour force are so frequent. It is therefore advisable to do the experiment on an area where all trees can be carefully tapped by a single coolie. The number of trees in this experiment was 200, of which one half was manured and the remainder was left unmanured, so as to be able to compare the results after the experiment. The fields were taken so that they did not adjoin each other in order to obviate roots of unmanured trees benefiting from the manure applied to the other field. It is known that there can be a substantial difference in yield between several trees, so that it cannot be assumed the output of each of the two groups of trees should be the same before one of the groups was manured. Therefore it was necessary before manuring one of the groups to compare the output of the groups in ordinary circumstances; it was found that on Poerwodjojo Estate this difference was very small. From field B. which afterwards was left unmanured, 15,725 grammes rubber were obtained in March; from field A. which was manured later, 14,965 grammes rubber were obtained; in April the outputs of the fields were respectively 13,260 and 12,960 grammes.

The ratio in output of field B. to field A. was, in March, 100 : 95; and in April 100 : 98. It would, of course, have been advisable to continue this tapping experiment a few months more, but as a slowly working manure was to be applied and as it could not be expected that this manure would give good results immediately after application, especially owing to the following dry period, the manure was applied to field A. at the end of April.

With permanent cultures it is advisable to make use of slowly working manures, of which ground-nut cake may be mentioned as being available in Java. In applying this manure nitrogen is the principal ingredient added to the soil; a most necessary element for Java soil. Everywhere the soil contains sufficient potassium; manuring experiments with potassium did not improve results, so that it is not necessary to add it to a manure mixture. Phosphoric Acid also will only be useful in a few cases; this acid is, moreover, a substance of ground-nut cake (1 per cent). The percentage of nitrogen is 7.

At the end of April each of the trees of field A., which were 8 years old and planted on a distance of 12 ft. by 15 ft., were manured with 1 kilo ground-nut cake. The manure was put round the stem at a distance of 1 metre and buried by changkolling. It was not forgotten to effect a similar changkolling in Field B, planted also with trees of 8 years old on a distance of 12 ft. by 15 ft. Daily the latex of each field was collected, prepared and weighed separately. The yields per month were as follows :—

	Unmanured field. Grams.	Manured field. Grams.	Proportion.
May ...	... 14,660	13,960	100·95
June ...	... 13.520	13,420	100·99
July ...	... 12,970	12,610	100·97
August ...	... 13,120	12,620	100 96
September	... 14,700	14,400	100·98
October ...	... 15,780	14,940	100·95
November	... 13.840	13,660	100·99
December	... 15,220	15,440	100·101

The soil on this estate is a good one and there is nothing to show that the author is correct in his surmise that Phosphoric Acid would not have proved beneficial. In South India the phosphatic fertilisers produce the best results.

The experiment is far too small a one and was conducted over too short a period to enable any conclusions to be drawn from it but it is interesting as far as it goes.

Jerusalem Artichokes.

In a Report on Vegetable cultivation in the Shevaroys I suggested the trial of Jerusalem Artichokes. In the Annual Report of the Kovilpatti Agricultural Station for 1917-18 the following results of a trial with this vegetable on the red soil is given :—

"Jerusalem Artichokes gave a heavy yield of tubers, a little over five tons per acre calculated from a twenty-fifth acre plot. They did not, however, suit the tastes of the local market and were fed to the cattle. Cows and buffaloes eat these readily, but working cattle would not look at them. It is possible that this may prove a useful root crop for dairy cattle as it only takes three or four months to mature."

Where the market is a big town with a European population there should be a demand for this useful and prolific vegetable and native taste for them would probably soon become educated. When Potatoes were first introduced into the Nilgiris they were only eaten by Europeans but the native taste for the vegetable soon developed.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Kanan Devan Planters' Association.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the above Association held in the High Range Club, Munnar, on the 13th July, 1918, at 3 p. m.

PRESENT.—W. A. Lee, Esq., (Chairman), H. L. Pinches, Esq., J. G. Abbott, Esq., A. J. Wright, Esq., J. M. Bridgman, Esq., A. Yates, Esq., W. O. Milne, Esq., G. P. Walker, Esq., A. H. Dixson, Esq., G. W. Cole, Esq., A. G. Murray, Esq., J. S. Hawkins, Esq., E. H. Francis, Esq., L. G. Bennet, Esq., J. C. Swayne, Esq., L. H. Ley, Esq., E. L. Koechlin, Esq., A. Blair Hill, Esq., C. Rowson, Esq., R. D. Armstrong, Esq., Wm. Mackenzie, Esq., and G. R. Strachan, Esq., (Honorary Secretary). *Visitors.*—S. C. H. Robinson, Esq., Commissioner, Devicolam. Lieut.-Colonel Wyatt, Messrs. R. Brown and R. S. Keir.

Apology for absence from Mr. A. W. Leslie was intimated.

Before proceeding to business the Chairman made the following reference to the late Mr. A. W. L. Vernede and to the death of Lieut. R. Ll. Peel :—

Gentlemen,—We cannot begin business this afternoon without first making reference to the blank that has occurred in our ranks since last we met in General Meeting, and to the loss which we, as an Association, and indeed the whole community has sustained in the death of Mr. A. W. L. Vernede.

For a lengthened period he served this district faithfully and well as Magistrate, and we as planters were particularly fortunate in having a man of his ability and ripe experience in that position.

No Government could have had a more loyal and efficient servant, and indeed this was recognised time and again by His Highness' Government in that he continued to occupy the office of Commissioner at Devicolam for several years after the age when retirement from arduous work was his due.

After retirement from Government Service he had, during the past few years, been more directly associated with the K. D. H. P. Co., Ltd., and we, as employees, can testify to the interest he took in planting matters generally, and of how his efforts were always in the direction of improving the district he lived so long in and loved so well.

At work practically to the very end, esteemed and respected by both Europeans and natives, he passed away after a full life of usefulness. We miss him much.

Our sympathy goes out to his family, and to her who had for so long managed his household for him.

I propose we place on record our appreciation of one, whose services in this district were by none more highly prized and valued than by the Members of this Association.

We have to record with deep regret, the death from wounds received in action in France, of our comrade and late fellow member Lieut. R. Ll. Peel.

Some months ago what several of us feared was our friend's name appeared in the Casualty Lists, and this has now proved too true.

As you know, a few months after the outbreak of war he went home to join up and received a Commission in the R. F. A. He saw service in Gallipoli and thereafter in France, and while we were very sure he would prove himself a brave and capable officer, yet we rejoiced to learn he had so distinguished himself as to receive the Military Cross.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with him, as to those who were his more special chums, Young Peel was never found wanting.

We regret the loss of a good comrade, and tender to his mother and the other members of his family our deepest sympathy.

Both votes were then passed in silence—all members standing.

The Minutes of the Bi-Annual General Meeting having been printed in the *Planters' Chronicle*, of which every member had received a copy, were taken as read.

The following Agenda was laid on the table:—

1. Honorary Secretary's Report.
2. Chairman's Address.
3. Accounts.
4. Sri Mulam and T. C. P. A. Meetings Delegates' Reports.
5. Election of U. P. A. General Meeting Delegates.
6. U. P. A. S. I. Reorganization.
7. Postal Service between Surianalle and Devicolam.
8. One Day's Pay Subscription towards War Funds.
9. Planting Member of the Travancore Legislative Council.
10. Game Laws.
11. Roads and Bridges.
12. Election of Office-Bearers.

1. Honorary Secretary's Report.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—The following is my report on the working of the Association during the past year:—

There are now 36 members on the register who represent an acreage of Tea 20,865·67 acres, Coffee 784·70 acres, Rubber 950 acres, Cardamoms 1,382·84 acres and Cinchona 334·50 acres or a total of 24,317·71 acres as against last year's figure of 23,874. Many estates have been resurveyed during the year and owing to previous discrepancies areas have, in some cases, been reduced, but the actual tea extensions applicable to the period under review amount to 476 acres, which, considering the present troublous times, is very satisfactory.

Tea Crop.—The crop secured during the Association's Financial year, *i.e.*, to 31st May, amounts to 10,502,478 lbs. and is the highest on record. The yield per mature acre was 560·43 lbs. as against 559·10 for the period last year, and in calculating these figures all young tea which has just matured and consequently yielded little has been included.

Prices.—As regards prices, as the final figures are not yet available I regret I am unable to touch on this subject, except in so far as to say that they are at present well in advance of those of last season, though the continued enhancement of freight and charges generally will, I fear, absorb most, if not all, of this increase.

Meetings.—During the year the Bi-Annual General Meeting and nine Committee Meetings have been held, all of which were fairly well attended.

Medical Grants.—The Grants in respect to the three Grant-in-aid Dispensaries have been regularly paid, and our thanks are due to His Highness' Government for this continued concession.

FINANCE.—I am pleased to be in a position to inform you that the Financial position of the Association is very satisfactory there being a credit balance of Rs. 1,566-11-11 available, or an increase during the year of Rs. 506-4-6. This increase is largely due to the fact that the Bangalore Delegates have refrained from drawing their expenses from the Association's Funds, which act of consideration I am sure we all appreciate, but even if these expenses had been drawn the income of the Association would have exceeded the expenditure by approximately Rs. 250. I am of the opinion, therefore, that the annual subscription, which was raised from 10 to Rs. 30 in 1913, might be reduced and this matter will be considered when you are asked to pass the accounts.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—The good work done by this Association is apparent to all, and I have pleasure in informing you that, in response to my appeals, made in accordance with Mr. A. J. Wright's resolution at the Bi-Annual General Meeting. I was enabled to send in the names of 18 new members to the Secretary of the Association. The younger men, however, have not come up to the scratch and it is regrettable to have to state that only two Assistants have applied for membership through the K. D. P. A. It is possible, however, that others may have sent in their names independently, and I hope this is the case and that those who have not done so will hasten to repair the omission.

THE L. A. N. INSTITUTE.—The subscription due by the Association has been paid.

THE S. I. P. B. FUND.—THE S. I. P. WAR FUND.—Only two members have subscribed to this fund through the Association but I am aware that several others remit subscriptions direct to the Secretary, and I hope that when meeting the many calls which are being made upon us at present these very deserving funds will not be overlooked.

SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.—T. C. P. ASSOCIATION.—Mr. A. J. Wright again represented our interests at these meetings and we will have the pleasure of hearing his reports later. Meantime, we congratulate him on the honour of his being elected to the Chair of the T. C. P. A. for the ensuing year.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—In March last a deputation of members of your Committee had the pleasure of meeting Mr. O. S. Barrow, D. P. W., Travancore, when the matter of roads and bridges was fully discussed. The report of the deputation is on the table and may be scrutinised by any member who wishes to do so, and, meantime, it is sufficient for me to say that your Committee were unanimously of the opinion that it would be most satisfactory for all concerned if the maintenance grants for all minor Government roads in the district were in future paid to the Association who would undertake to see the work carried through, sub-letting the contracts to the Managers of Estates chiefly concerned. This mode of procedure is at present adopted by the British Government in respect to the Bodi Mettu Ghat Road with satisfactory results, and the Chief Engineer to the Travancore Government has therefore been approached on the subject, but so far no reply to my letter has been received.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—You will recollect that at last General Meeting this matter was brought up when I was directed to approach His Highness' Government on the subject, and I have now pleasure in informing you that in response to the Association's representations the "Padi" equivalent of 1-1/4 Edangalies has been declared an authorised measure in the Devicolam Taluk, *vide* the Chief Secretary to Government's letter No. J. 9364/76 of 1914, dated the 20th November, 1917, to the Commissioner, Devicolam.

PLANTING MYCOLOGIST.—Very great difficulty has been experienced in securing the services of a suitable man to fill this post, and in July 1917 the U. P. A. S. I. suggested approaching Government once again on the subject with a view to obtaining the services of a Government of India man, and, in the event of their declining to comply with the request, proposed that the matter be shelved until after the war. Under the circumstances your Committee had no option but to agree to the proposal, and as no further communication on the subject has been received, I fear we can only conclude that the efforts of the U. P. A. S. I. in this direction have been fruitless.

MADRAS EXHIBITION.—Exhibits of tea from several factories in the district were sent to the Exhibition, but I am not aware of any material benefits which have, so far, resulted therefrom. In view of the present shipping difficulties, however, it is very necessary that every effort be made to increase local sales, and facilities such as the Exhibition be taken full advantage of.

GAME LAWS.—Our Delegate again brought this subject up at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and I sincerely trust His Highness' Government will soon see its way to take some definite action in the matter. Poaching of game continues to a serious extent and the fact that trout fry, which were put out in the Yeravacolam some years ago, are doing well and appear to be multiplying seems to prove to there being every possibility of the trout doing equally well in the streams nearer habitation if the Local Game Committee were empowered to take the necessary action to put a stop to the poaching which is undoubtedly going on. In spite of reminders, however, I regret to say that Government have made no move in the matter.

Before closing my report I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of Committee for the support and help which they accorded me during my term of office.

I now beg to place my resignation in your hands.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.—In shortly reviewing planting interests over the past year, we cannot but first to the terrible world war and to the magnitude of the struggle that continues in this the closing months of its 4th year.

We have the collapse of an unhappy Russia—an event but for which the conflict would have been shorter, if not perhaps already over, but, while this might have been so, none of us can doubt that though prolonged, the decision will in the end be all the more thorough, and must result in the absolute destruction of Prussianism and German ambitions, and in the restoration of Free Government to the smaller Nations with the establishing of a just, and we hope a lasting peace throughout the world.

We have lately read of the magnificent valour of the Allies on the Western Front and of the Italian successes, while with a tightened blockade and the advent of America—now putting forth her full strength both in men and money—the result is assured, and indeed the day of reckoning may be nearer than we at present can have any indication of.

Many of us have relatives and friends serving king and country in the respective battle fronts. Some of us have to mourn the loss of loved ones, while others cannot but be often anxious regarding those near and dear to them.

From our own community the following are now on service :—

NAMES.

W. J. Dixson, Capt., East Kent Mounted Rifles, B.E.F., France (wounded).
E. H. Elliot (Travancore Government Service), Lieut., I.A.R.O., 3rd Sappers and Miners.
G. P. Gouldsbury, Lieut., I.A.R.O., 2/5th Gurkha Rifles F.F., 42nd Brigade, Mesopotamia E.F.
W. A. C. Havelock, 2nd-Lieut., I.A.R.O., 99th Infantry, Mesopotamia, E. F.
L. Hayes. I.A.R.O., 20th Punjabis, Egyptian E. F. (awarded M.C. mentioned in despatches).
R. Hedger, Capt., A.S.C., B.E. Force, France.
G. A. Holden, Lieut., Northumberland Hussars.
M. C. Kœchlin, Sergeant, 2nd King Edward's Horse, which is now attached to the 1st Canadian Cavalry Brigade (wounded).
B. Llewellyn, 2nd-Lieut., I.A.R.O., attached to 1st Lancers, Peshawar (Prisoner of war).
R. De C. Meade, 2nd-Lieut., I.A.R.O., 1/10th Norfolk Yeomanry, Egyptian E. F.
H. L. Peel. Lieut., South Wales Borderers, Persian Gulf (twice wounded).
E. M. Milne, 2nd-Lieut., I.A.R.O., attached to Duke of Wellington's Regiment,
C. H. Mitchell, 2nd-Lieut., I.A.R.O., 2nd Q.V.O. Guides, Egyptian E. F.
H. W. Leamon, 2nd-Lieut., I.A.R.O. (recently reported wounded).
W. L. Ranking, Capt., I.A.R.O., attached to 33rd Cavalry, Adjutant, S.M.P. Rifles, Madras.
K. M. Ross, Lieut., I.A.R.O., 88th Carnatics, Mesopotamia E. F.
W. D. K. Thellusson, 2nd-Lieut., Hampshires.
A. Todd, Trooper, Middlessex Yeomanry.
R. G. Ewart Vernede, 2nd-Lieut., Royal Flying Corps.
R. D. Willis, Capt., I.A.R.O., 14th Jat Lancers G. H. Quarters, Baghdad.
W. F. Inman, 2nd-Lieut., I.A.R.O., 14th Jat Lancers, Bareilly.
C. G. Bowden, Officers' Training School, Bangalore.
E. H. House, I. A. R. O. (address unknown).
P. E. Perry, 2nd-Lieut., I. A. R. O., Supply and Transport, Aden.
J. H. B. Berry Hart (Regiment not known.)

While we have to record with regret the following killed in action :—

J. H. S. Jameson, Lieut., 7th Seaforth Highlanders.
P. G. Fraser, Lieut., Gordon Highlanders.
F. D. Mackinnon, Lieut., I. A. R. O.

and of the death from wounds in action of :—

R. Ll. Peel. Lieut., M. C., R. F. A.

and also of the death in Bangalore of :—

E. L. Hammick, Lieut., I. A. R. O.

We have recently heard Captain W. J. Dixson had been wounded for the second time, but we are glad to learn he is making good progress. We send him words of cheer, which perhaps his brother will be good enough to convey to him. We do not forget the others, with whom members correspond with from time to time.

May I be allowed to throw out the suggestion that a list be compiled and suitably framed of the names of those from our district who have joined the army or other services with particulars of their respective regiments, etc., and that this be given a prominent place in one of our Club rooms. We are

proud of them. They deserve well of us. This perhaps might be more appropriately done by our Club, but I merely make the suggestion now, with the feeling that it is the wish of all of us, that our comrades' record of service should not stand the slightest chance of being inadvertently lost sight of.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT.—From our Honorary Secretary's Report it is pleasing to note that in the past year a slight increase in the tea crop per acre over the district can be recorded, and that the finances of the Association are in such a satisfactory condition. Your Committee at a recent meeting came to the decision that we could, at least for the present, recommend that the yearly subscription of Rs. 30 be reduced to Rs. 20 and in the notices now being sent out for the collection of the past year's cess and subscription, this has been given effect to, but you will to-day be asked to confirm the Committee's action in this matter.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—I would very specially draw your attention to what Mr. Strachan has said, and although 18 new members have joined, let us be quite sure we are supporting this Association as we ought. I hope, should any Manager not be a member he will become so without delay, and that those of us with Assistants, will endeavour to get them to put up their names. The European Association is the only one in India which can speak for the entire non-official European community. It may be that the recent publication of the Scheme of Reforms in the Administration of India, may call for certain action by this Association, but whether this should be so or not, it is a body that rightly calls for the support of every European British subject. Mr. Welby, the Secretary, has recently published an appeal for recruits. I can only express the hope that the High Range will answer to a man.

TEA.—During the past season the Tea Industry has experienced a very trying and anxious time, but the Government Purchase Scheme, which came into force in December last, under which 40 per cent. of 1917 crop was bought by Government for shipment to the United Kingdom, the freight difficulty, so far as this product was concerned was rendered less acute. 1918 Contract is based on an Indian crop of 373 million pounds, and Government purchases fixed at 66 per cent. The disposal of the balance of our teas is a problem. Freight to other countries is very limited, and in this connection it may not be out of place to refer to the Resolution passed at last General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. *re* Foreign Teas. From X's Planting Notes in the *Madras Mail*, we find that over six million rupees worth of imported teas were consumed in India during the year ending March last. That it is not all of the best quality can be gauged from the fact that sales at 6 annas per lb. are recorded in the West Coast towns. In April, the value of imported teas is given at Rs. 4 lakhs—an increase of Rs. 2,79,000 on April 1917.

The Indian Tea Planter is not asking anything more than his rights when he requests Government to prohibit the import of foreign teas for at least the period of the war. A market at our very doors is being exploited. I see from the Draft Agenda for next August General Meeting the subject is again to be brought up, and I am sure we all hope a very strong appeal will go forward to Government on this subject, and that we shall secure the protection asked for.

COFFEE.—Coffee Planters have had to weather a period of immense difficult and anxiety, and we sympathise with them in that their representations to Government for assistance in the disposal of their crops, did not, owing to force of circumstances, meet with the support hoped for.

Unable to ship their produce to the United Kingdom they are obliged to sell where they can in local markets at comparatively poor figures,

True, Government prohibited the import of Foreign Coffee into India but as the quantity imported was never very large, this restriction could only give relief to a very minor degree. Recently however 2 000 tons have been purchased by the Greek Government which has helped to reduce stock, and we trust it may be possible to secure further contracts of this nature, and so bring relief and freedom from anxiety to men who have faced a most difficult and serious situation with the utmost fortitude.

RUBBER.—There is no embargo on the output of rubber, but from what one reads, it looks as if Government are in the near future only likely to provide tonnage for rubber as required for war purposes. At the Rubber Planters' Conference held in Cochin last month this question was discussed, when it was proposed that the Home Government be asked to make some definite statement as regards the position of rubber to enable South Indian Planters to estimate requirements for which freight could readily be secured. This seems to point to a restriction in output during the period of the war.

TEA INCOME-TAX—LIABILITY OF TEA CONCERNS FOR PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX.—You will no doubt have observed the Government of India have amended the Law relating to Income-tax which brings in tea (the manufactured article) as taxable. The I. T. A. have protested both on their own behalf and on behalf of the U. P. A. S. I. No reply has yet, so far as we know, been received from Government to the Committee's representations. It seems more than hard that Tea Planters, who already pay an Export Tax on their produce which can surely be claimed as wholly agricultural, are in danger of being taxed further.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I would briefly refer to the important question of the re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I. which comes before you to-day for a definite expression of opinion.

We in this district can speak with first hand knowledge and perhaps with a longer experience than others, of the immense importance of a Labour Department. I am very certain none of us in the K. D. H. P. Co., Limited, would care to again be faced with the conditions that prevailed before we had our own Labour Department as run by Mr. Martin. This being so, how much more must a department of the present importance—organized on bigger and broader lines—be a force for good in South India generally if unanimously supported.

Much has been written and said on the different schemes. We have the Control Committee's suggestions and the proposals of the Mundakayam Planters' Association, both agreed that re-organisation is essential, but differing on the main point *i.e.*, as to how the necessary funds are to be provided. An all-in subscription Re. 1 for coffee, Re. 1/8 for tea and Re. 1/4 for rubber is proposed by the former and a cess with separate departments by the other.

On reading the Reports of the recent Rubber and Coffee Conferences, one cannot but feel, that it is not impossible for a sound business scheme to be evolved out of what may appear on the surface as a clash of ideas, and I am sure we all here hope that an agreement on this very important question will be unanimously reached. That we shall have in the U. P. A. S. I. a strong Association—efficient and in every way capable of upholding and furthering the various interests of the whole Planting Community of S. India.

3. ACCOUNTS.—Mr. A. Yates proposed that the Accounts and Balance Sheet as now before the meeting be approved and adopted, and further that the Committee's recommendation that the annual subscription be reduced from Rs. 30 to Rs. 20 be hereby confirmed. Seconded by Mr. G. P. Walker and *carried unanimously*.

In this connection the Chairman proposed a very hearty vote of thanks in Mr. R. Brown for auditing the accounts. He was aware that Mr. Brown had undertaken the audit at considerable inconvenience to himself, and he was sure all members fully appreciated the trouble he had taken in the matter.—*Carried unanimously.*

4. Sri Mulam and Travancore Combined Planters' Association Delegate's Reports.—Mr. A. J. Wright then read his reports on his attendance at these meetings and the Chairman in thanking him for same took the opportunity to offer the hearty congratulations of the meeting on his appointment of Chairman to the T. C. P. A. for the ensuing year.

5. Election of U. P. A. S. I. General Meeting Delegates.—Mr. J. M. Bridgman proposed that Mr. H. L. Pinches be elected to represent the Association at the forthcoming U. P. A. S. I. General Meeting to be held in Madras on the 19th proximo. The Resolution was seconded by Mr. G. P. Walker and *carried unanimously.*

Mr. Pinches after thanking the members for the honour done to him, suggested that as Messrs. W. A. Lee and A. J. Wright would probably be in Madras at the time of the meeting they also be elected as delegates. Seconded by Mr. W. O. Milne and *carried unanimously.*

6. U. P. A. S. I. Re-organization.—Mr. H. L. Pinches proposed the following Resolution :—

> "That this Association strongly supports the Control Committee's proposal for the re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I. in all its main principles, especially in regard to the inclusive subscription concerning all departments and that it would welcome the inclusion of British Mercantile Firms at a fixed subscription carrying a fixed voting power."

In continuation Mr. Pinches in a short speech pointed out to members the importance of giving the matter their very careful consideration at the present time. When the K. D. H. P. Co.'s Labour Department was incorporated with the U. P. A. S. I., it was stipulated then that after five years that Company would have the right to revert to the original arrangement, and it was for members of the Association to decide now as to whether the proposed re-organization scheme would benefit them sufficiently well to admit of their continuing to support a Labour Department which was part and parcel of the U. P. A. S. I. Further it was essential that the new Labour Department should be a lasting one. The U. P. A. S. I. must be re-organized and a better way of focussing its activities could not be found than in the Control Committee's scheme of an all-in snbscription which would embrace all departments and so render the Association more efficient. He was of opinion, therefore, that this scheme should be strongly supported.

As regards the inclusion of Firms, while there were many different opinions on the subject, he could see no objection to the proposal provided they were not given too much power.

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. A. J. Wright and *carried unanimously.*

7. Postal Service between Surianalle and Devicolam.—Mr. J. S. Hawkins brought this matter up and proposed that the Postmaster-General be again approached in regard to the necessity of supplying a runner between these two post offices at the same time pointing out the difficulty which residents in the Surianallè Valley had to contend with owing to the present inadequate postal service.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the Association had on several occasions taken the matter up and that in the last reply received from the Postmaster-General it was stated that nothing could be done until after the war.

In reply to an enquiry as to whether the Anchel Office could not be used to advantage, Mr. Hawkins said that he had once sent a letter by this route and 15 days elapsed before it was delivered at its destination which was three miles away!

After considerable further discussion the resolution, which had been seconded by Mr. G. P. Walker, was put to the vote and *carried unanimously*.

The Honorary Secretary was therefore directed to take the necessary action.

8. ONE DAY'S PAY PER MONTH SUBSCRIPTION TOWARDS WAR FUNDS.—Mr. J. C. Swayne then read a short paper in which he gave a resumé of the result of his efforts in connection with the above since its incorporation some three years ago and owing to which many deserving War Funds, had benefited to a very appreciable extent. Mr. Swayne pointed out that his reason for bringing up the subject was that the number of subscribing members had decreased, and, in the hope that it would lead to more subscriptions being secured, he proposed that:—

"The working of the fund be taken over by the Association." The Resolution was seconded by Mr. A. H. Dixson.

After considerable general discussion in which it was pointed out that the Honorary Secretary's work was already very considerable and should not be added to in this way, the following amendment was proposed by Mr. H. L. Pinches and seconded by Mr. G. P. Walker.

> "That this Association strongly supports the One Day's Pay Fund and wishes to urge its claims upon the attention of members, trusting that it will receive their increasing support. The Association feels that it is in such excellent hands that it hopes Mr. Swayne will continue to run it."

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried by 16 for to 2 against. In view of the decision of the meeting Mr. Swayne consented to continue to act as Secretary to the Fund and a vote of thanks was accorded him therefor. Several of the members present consented to join the fund.

9. PLANTING MEMBER OF THE TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. A. J. Wright, seconded by Mr. H. L. Pinches and *carried unanimously*.

> "That this Association trusts that His Highness' Government may be pleased to make an early announcement regarding a nomination to the seat on the Travancore Legislative Council recently vacated by the Planting Member."

10. GAME LAWS.—This subject was placed on the Agenda at the request of Mr. G. Walker who, after bringing to the notice of the meeting the serious proportions which poaching was assuming, asked what steps were being taken by the Association to put a stop to it. The Chairman pointed out that everything possible was being done to get Government to recognize the Local Game Committee and until this was done members had no redress. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson, Commissioner, Devicolam, remarked that he thought the remedy was in the hands of the planters themselves, as, although no legal proceedings could at present be taken against poachers,

managers could very easily put a stop to poaching on their own estates. In his jurisdiction, although not in this district, men had admitted to him that they actually encouraged their coolies to poach in order that their estates might become popular with labour. Further he recommended that Government be approached with a view to obtaining sanction to appoint Honorory Warders in the district who would be recognized by Government. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should consult with Mr. Robinson on the subject and thereafter take the matter up with Government. —*Carried.*

11. ROADS AND BRIDGES.—This subject was also placed on the Agenda at the request of Mr. Walker but, on being requested to state his views, he informed the meeting that in view of a private talk which he had had with the Honorary Secretary he had now nothing to bring forward.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.—Mr. Lee on vacating the Chair thanked the Association for the courtesy extended to him during the year in which he had the honour of presiding at their various meetings. His thanks were also due to members of Committee and very specially to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Strachan, who had worked very hard and discharged his duties most efficiently. The best he could wish for their new Chairman was, that he might have the benefit of Mr. Strachan's help. He proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Strachan, which was *carried with acclamation.*

Mr. J. C. Abbott proposed, and Mr. J. M. Bridgman seconded a very hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman.—*Carried with acclamation.*

Election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with.

Mr. W. A. Lee was re-elected Chairman and in thanking members for the honour done him, remarked that he considered the position was one which should go round more. He would endeavour with their assistance to fulfil the duties of the Chair,

Mr. G. R. Strachan was re-elected Honorary Secretary and in a few words expressed his thanks to members,

The ballot of Members of Committee resulted in the election of the following gentlemen :—

Messrs. H. L. Pinches, J. M. Bridgman, A. J. Wright, J. C. Abbott and A. Yates.

Before the close of the meeting Mr. S. C. H. Robinson asked permission to say a few words in connection with the War Loan and after pointing out the benefits of investing money therein said that he hoped the High Range contribution to the Loan would compare very favourably with other districts in Travancore.

Resolved that the Committee of the Association be appointed as a sub-committee to go into the matter with Mr. Robinson, with a view to increasing the existing subscriptions from the district,

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting terminated.

Note.—A sum of Rs. 155 was subscribed by members present in aid of the S. I. P. Benevolent Fund.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. LEE,
Chairman.

(„) G. R. STRACHAN,
Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Coffee Prices.

Sir,—Mr. Hart's letter in your issue of 3rd and Mr. Danver's letter of 31st ultimo, cannot but have given all thinking coffee planters food for reflection.

Government have stood by us nobly in placing an embargo on the importation of coffee into India. We now have the ball at our feet and it only needs combination and a little determination to insure our obtaining a fair price for our produce.

Can no scheme be formulated or campaign organized by which we may obtain fair value from the present position, which so far has only benefited the coast dealers, camouplaged or otherwise? I would suggest that Mr. Hart who is a coffee proprietor himself and besides has an intimate knowledge of the West Coast Coffee Market, be asked to accept the names of such managers and proprietors who are prepared not to sell parchment at less than Rs. 50 a cwt. or native for less than 200 per candy and that a thermometer be given weekly in the *Planting Chronicle* showing the tonnage promised, names not to be published. This is but a suggestion—a poor one possibly—I only hope it may be the means of spurring some one on to put forward a better one. Meanwhile tempus fug it and as Mr. Danvers says, the wily Arab is whetting his sword, or perhaps one might be permitted to say licking his lips over the approaching offerings of the coffee planter who so far has got no nearer to combinations (sic) than the wearing of shorts.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. FOSTER.

Murguddi Khan,
Sallebile, Sept., 5, 1918.

"Karradi Betta," Hassan M. S. Ry.,
September 7th 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Prices.

Sir,—I must say I agree with Mr. Danvers, that the most important question, at the moment, that Coffee Planters have to solve, is the matter of Coffee Prices.

I too, am open to be convinced, that the matter of endeavouring to fix a minimum, by combination amongst all planters, who are members of Local Planters' Associations, which are affiliated to the "U. P. A. S. I.," is "UTOPIAN". At present I decline to believe that it is. I have not yet seen any arguments put forward to show that combination, with this end in view, is "UTOPIAN." Doubtless there are difficulties, but to state that a question of this sort is not feasible, before having made a thorough investigation of its possibilities of success, is in my opinion a case of committing the scheme to death, before a just trial.

Before putting before your readers my suggestions, for what little they may be worth, in an endeavour to see our sales of coffee improved in regard to prices, I would discuss two features of the sales of coffee as they strike me, for the past two seasons.

(1). The equality of prices secured by all planters alike.

(2). Was our coffee put up and sold by auction.

Dealing with No. 1. For the past two years on the West Coast, and more particularly last season, when no shipments were permitted, the equality of price obtained for nearly all coffee sold, no matter from what district, or estate, was approximately the same: viz. somewhere between approx: Rs. 42-8-0, and Rs. 43-8-0 per cwt. From this I am led to believe that

No. 2, the auctioneering of coffee was non-existent. Before the War in London or elsewhere, when our coffee was put up and sold by auction, this was certainly not the case. Very often different prices were obtained for two shipments put up for auction at the same time, from the same estate. From this I would deduce that there was keen competition for our different marks from different districts. In those days it was remarkable to note the difference in prices obtained for 'Bababudan' Mysore' and Coorg marks, Likewise those of other districts, which would sell at the average prices ruling for those districts.

From this state of affairs and the condition of the West Coast market, more particularly last season, I am led to conclude that competition for our coffee through the medium of "Auctions" was non-existent. It would appear also that the Buyers, knowing the condition of the market formed themselves into a very strong combine, and were able to obtain their requirements at the price they were willing to offer. This, I must say shows their business capacity and combination. The reverse, I think, can be applied to our lack of enterprise in not having put up a firm stand at the time. Everything last year had to be done in such a hurry, as we could not obtain a definite answer from Government, as to whether they could find shipping space for us or not. We cannot complain that this is the case this season. Is combination to be passed over as not feasible, without its possibilities ?

Another feature of the London market, I would draw attention to was the publication of the results of the auction. Was this kind of thing obtainable on the West Coast last year ? If not, can any one enlighten me ?

Now as to the general discussion of the matter of the feasibility or otherwise of the matter of minimum price. Under this head I would include any sort of combination amongst us to improve the prospect of our obtaining a better price for our coffee. Perhaps this would be less of a bone of contention, in view of the reception accorded to the Resolution of the "N. M. P. A., at the last meeting of the "S. M. P. A." Now surely with this end in view, we can find some solution to further our own interests. It would appear to me that a very full discussion of all the issues involved, is what is wanted. Surely it is a very narrow-minded policy to strain at swallowing a phrase, instead of realising some of the issues involved. I would suggest some such procedure as the following in order that the question of improving the prices ruling for coffee.

(1.) Let each District Association interested in Coffee place the matter of "IMPROVEMENT OF THE PRICES FOR COFFEE" on the Agenda for next meeting. The question of how many tons for certain could be obtained, which owners would not allow to be auctioned for less than Rs. 50 per cwt, for Parchment, and a settled price also for 'Native' could then be ascertained. If a reasonable fraction of our produce could be held up in this manner, it might encourage others to join in. This at least would show the feasibility or otherwise of the scheme.

(2.) That each said Association do then appoint a committee of as many members as should be deemed desirable, to devise means for the improvement of the position of Sales of Coffee.

(3). That a meeting of these members of all these committees after all preliminary correspondence dealing with this matter, should arrange to hold a meeting on the West Coast. Their expenses I would suggest should be paid, just as all delegates expenses are paid by Associations to any other meetings.

(4). That all coast firms interested should be invited to discuss with them the whole question.

(5). That some sort of arrangement be fixed up whereby Auctions be held at stated intervals. That reports of all these auctions be issued by Coast firms to all their constituents.

I place this matter as it appears to me before your readers, in the hope that it may lead to a thorough discussion of all the issues that we have got to face, if we are going to move in the matter. The sooner we resolve to do something the better, in my opinion. Our lack of co-operation has cost us dear last season. Just as the "Arab" was the gainer last year, so will he organise his campaign this coming year. Unless we do something to better our position, I don't think it is at all likely that he will be as generous to us, in the matter of price, as he was last season.

Yours faithfully,
E. VIVIAN HUNT,

TO THE EDITOR, *The Planters' Chronicle.*

Saklaspur P.O., Hassan District,
8th September, 1918.

Pushing of Coffee.

Dear Sir,—We the undersigned together with the other Delegates representing Coffee at the U. P. A. Meeting last month discussed with Mr. Stille, a representative of the Firm of Messrs. George Payne & Co. Ltd., Calcutta, (wholesale Tea, Coffee & Cocoa Merchants) the possibility of pushing the sale of Coffee in India, Mesopotamia the Gulf, etc., Mr. Stille agreed that our proposal of asking the Government to impose a cess on all exported coffee was sound but recognised with us, that it must be some time before we can hope the Government will sanction this and that immediate action is necessary if we wish to help ourselves. Without doubt there will be very fierce competition for the markets of the world, directly the war ceases and we are in the fortunate position (if we only pull ourselves together) of being able to make a start at once. If we don't take this opportunity *now* we shall be left behind in the great struggle for existence which undoubtedly will take place when peace is once more established.

We ask all Coffee Associations to *at once* call meetings to discuss Mr. Stille's proposals and elect one or more members to meet Mr. Stille in Bangalore on October 7th to thrash out a workable scheme with a view to raising the necessary funds to at once start the propaganda. We wish to point out that this scheme would not interfere with the proposal to obtain Government sanction to a cess on exported coffee because if Government agrees with our proposal, the funds so raised can be made to carry on the propaganda already started. Mr. Hayward, Honorary Secretary S. M. P. A. has agreed to act as Secretary until the meeting in Bangalore takes place, so all correspondence on the matter should be addressed to him to Saklaspur P. O., Hassan District.

With Mr. Stille's sanction we publish his letter dated 26th August addressed to Mr. Hayward which we hope everyone will read carefully as we think it an opportunity not to be lost.

Yours faithfully,
C. LAKE,
President, S. M. P. A,
J. HAYWARD,
Hony. Secy., S. M. P. A.

George Payne & Co., Ltd.
(Incorporated in England.)
1, British Indian Street, Calcutta, 26th August, 1918.

Dear Sir,—Before leaving Madras on Friday the Reporter showed me his version of the remarks I made at your meeting on the subject of Coffee. It was not very explicit and missed out figures etc., so that I think it may be as well if I write to you and the other gentlemen whose names you gave me, explaining in detail what my ideas are, so that they can put them before their District Associations when the meetings which they have promised are called. I am not going over again my arguments with regard to the necessity of an Official Coffee Cess, as I think you are convinced as to its necessity, and at the moment it is not likely to be realised; but in the meantime I think a great deal can be done by a voluntary cess.

My idea is, that the cess should be used to push the sale of Indian Coffee, first throughout India, and then throughout the adjoining countries, with the object ultimately of extending operations if funds were available and results sufficiently encouraging.

The method I would suggest is that we canvass throughout India, Mesopotamia, the Gulf and possibly Burma. We should do on a smaller scale, what the Tea Cess Committee are doing for Tea in the way of encouraging small shopkeepers to open Coffee drinking shops, and at the same time to stock roasted and ground Coffee in small cheap packets. In addition, we would make arrangements in each town for at least one semi-wholesale merchant to supply the smaller merchants with Coffee and we should advertise as extensively as our funds permitted.

At the same time as this, we should push the sale of raw and roasted berries and probably arrange for the supply of cheap grinders.

My idea of the expense of this advertising and canvassing for a moderate start would be as follows:—

Indian Advertising	...	Rs. 2,500	per month
Do Convassing	...	Rs. 1,000	do.
Adjacent Markets	...	Rs. 2,000	do.

My firm would be prepared to find the working expenses, to install suitable machinery, open branches, etc., in S. India, and, provided you were able to guarantee us even the very minimum amount of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 per month, would make a start.

In order that not only should our propaganda be confined to S. India Coffee but that only actual Subscribers' gardens should get the benefit of our work and their expenditure, we would undertake to buy Coffee from only those particular gardens. They would thus be able to tell precisely what results they were getting.

I think if you compare this scheme with that adopted by the Indian Tea Cess Committee you will see that it is very much more in your favour. I am only suggesting an expenditure of about Rs. 50,000 per annum and you may be quite sure of getting the actual benefit yourselves. The Tea Cess are spending over 3 lakhs per annum and as you are aware there is no possibility of telling who gets the benefit or even if India gets the benefit at all.

I shall be very glad to attend any meeting you may decide to call and I trust that we shall be able to soon decide to get on with actual work.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. Hill.

C. J. Hayward Esq.,
Saklaspur P. O.,
Hassan District, Mysore.

THE EDITOR, Fairlands, Sidapur, Coorg.
Planters' Chronicle. 8th September, 1918.

Coffee Combination.

Deair Sir,—In your issue of 31st August, I notice that Mr. C Danvers, whom I have hitherto regarded as a friend of mine, has dragged my name into his letter on the subject of trying to establish a minimum rate for our two principal grades of Coffee and the question of Coffee sales propaganda.

He has apparently overlooked the fact that at a recent General Meeting of the N. M. P. A. three well known S. Mysore Planters in whom we have all the good sound, practical knowledge and energy that any one could wish for, (one of these three has since been elected Vice-Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.) were elected as a Coffee Committee, to watch our interests, besides these there are others, including Mr. Danvers himself, who have written and spoken on these matters, but what of the "Silent majority?" how can what they think and wish be ascertained?

The Coffee Committee have certain proposals for pushing the sale of Coffee under consideration, and we shall no doubt hear the result of their enquiries and deliberations ere long. But I suppose it is up to me to try and make a practical suggestion in compliance with Mr. Danvers' request with regard to some sort of a combine to uphold this season's prices. The whole situation hinges on combination, prompt action, and some knowledge of what sellers generally intend to do.

The following suggestion if generally adopted might be the first move towards fixing a minimum price for spot sales of our two principal grades of Coffee:—

That every owner and manager who reads this letter do at once, without a day's delay, send in his name and give the approximate amount of his crop, to the Honorary Secretary of his District Association, stating whether he is willing or not to support the suggested. Combine to hold out for Rs. 50 per cwt. for Plantation Parchment and Rs. 200/- per Candy for Plantation "Cherries" Clean.

District Honorary Secretaries might forward their lists to Secretary U. P. A. S. I. and send out reminders to those who, "intended," but did not send in their names.

The Secretary U. P. A. S. I. might be asked to publish a full list at the earliest possible date either in the P. C. or in Circular form.

Individuals would then get an idea of the strength of the movement, and we would not be quite so much in the dark as usual, and could advise our Agents accordingly.

One hears it said, that "it is alright" for those with funds, but some must sell and can't afford to hold out." Personally I cannot see how this argument applies, when there is no question of holding out and losing the season market, though there might possibly be a few weeks delay at the outset through buyers holding back. The whole question is one of mutual support and underfauding with the object obtains fair price for our produce firm stand made at the opening of the season is bound to have a good effect on prices.

Last season we had no knowledge of the strength of the local market, and in view of the serious position of shipping all over the world, there is small wonder that sellers were anxious to realise, and when, very early in the season, large quantities of good Mysore and Coorg plantation parchment was unloaded on a hesitating and unstudy market at 40 per cwt. the situation became 'panicky.' It is to stop this unnecessary playing into the hand of dealers that we need this Combination and firm stand amongst Producers.

Time flies, early offers will soon be coming in. Prompt action by every one is therefore essential, if we are to derive benefit and better prices for the coming crop from such a Combination. There is no risk, Coffee is required and will be—bought. The shipping outlook is brightening and should strengthen the demand.

A few lines or even a Post Card sent in to your District Association Honorary Secretary is all that is needed to bring us together. Any further developments will be watched. Our experienced U. P. A. S. I. Secretary will not only have the advice of our able Chairman, but also of the Vice-Chairman and Coffee Committee, so we are in good hands.

Apologising for taking so much of your space and trusting that my effort is not altogether wasted time. Yours faithfully,

PERCY G. TIPPING.

P. S.—With regard to Indian Coffee Planters who do not belong to our District Association, it would not be difficult for Honorary Secretaries of District Associations to find out through the Indian Planters or Land holders Association, whether they were willing to come in or not.

With regard to Curers and Agents I would suggest that the Secretary U. P. A. S. I. asked to invite their Co-operative support. T. G. A.

Coffee Prices.

THE EDITOR, *The Planters' Chronicle.*

Sir,—I have this moment received your issue of 7th instant and in one hour have to start on a week's tour, consequently can write very little to catch your next issue—but

1. I am obliged for Mr. Lake's explanation of the attitude of his Association, which was caused by some misunderstanding which no longer matters.

2. I am delighted to see that he is moving, and to have Mr. Newcorne's encouragement.

3. And that there seems every prospect of a fair number joining the Combine. We have actually started in the N. M. P. A., while yet another scheme seems to be on foot, and now Mr. Lake is moving. The N.M.P.A. was rather in the dark, and felt discouraged, so has only sent a circular to be printed which is to ascertain what support may be expected, and is in no way binding. The forms should soon arrive, and the Honorary Secretary will immediately issue them—and gentlemen are requested kindly to return *at once*. It will greatly help deliberations to get some idea of how our public views the scheme. Meanwhile, any other scheme may be perfected, and we will join anything which promises well.

I hope on my return to find things moving; and a meeting in Chickmagalur say, at end of the Camp week, would give all an opportunity of helping with suggestions. We have no time to lose, and things in the district do move so slowly.

I feel sure that most Curers will help us all they can, in their own interest as well as in ours—for a flourishing clientèle is a far more desirable asset than a moribund one. Details and difficulties must be thrashed out at a general meeting. We may not get many Indian planters to promise support; but if they see us getting enhanced, prices they will fall into line readily enough, I think—and even out—Herod Herod. I close with an earnest appeal to all to think carefully, and act promptly. All suggestions of difficulties, or solvings thereof, may be addressed to me, or to the Honorary Secretary N. M. P. A.

Kalasa P. O, Kadur District.

10—9—1918, Balur P.O. Yours faithfully, C. DANVERS.

COffee Markets.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—The following gleaned from the July number of *The Times Trade Supplement* may be of interest to any Coffee men who have doubts as to the position of the English Market and still think that those who advocate the pushing of our product in India and the East are trying to rush things.

"The efforts of the Government to secure adequate supplies of the three "infusions" have been crowned with complete success. We now hold 103,363,000 lb. Tea, 96,470,000 lb. Coffee, and 52,000,000 lb. Cocoa, these totals being in every case materially larger than before the war. The prices demanded, which show marked advance since 1914, are therefore entirely artificial, and are simply a State provision against such a consumption of the articles as would entail large imports in the winter months. The allocation of tonnage to other purposes for these winter months is rendered feasible by our having Tea, Coffee and Cocoa so well in hand."

Ossoor Estate, Yours faithfully,
11th Sept. 1918. E. W. RUTHERFORD

Coffee Prices.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—I crave little more space to bring some further points, in support of the movement to stand out for higher prices, to the notice of those who are holding off.

(i.) The high prices ruling in Europe—now about the record—and the fact that the Board of Trade has sanctioned the export of Indian Coffee to England during the present season to the extent of 1674 tons—which have been apportioned :—to Madras 464 tons ; to Coorg 504 tons ; to Mysore 706 tons ; and the possibility that with the great output of new shipping tonnage, this quantity may be augmented. The present market price of parchment might therefore be based upon current London prices, less Freight, Insurance and London charges.

(ii.) The high prices ruling in India, as evidenced by a catalogue just received from one of the principal retailing houses in Bombay, in which "Finest Mysore Coffee-Raw—" is quoted at Rs. 1-8-0 per lb.—say Rs. 168 per hundredweight—while we are only asking for a minimum of Rs. 50.

(iii.) The larger demand which must proceed from Arabia, now that country is getting more settled under British Rule, and trading facilities are improving. The Arabs *must* have coffee. I have known them cheerfully pay in the region of Rs. 250 per Mangalore candy in pre-war times. Is it too much to expect a minimum of Rs. 200 in these days ?

With reference to the letter in your issue of the 7th from the U. C. S. Company at Coimbatore. I am sorry to find they are vending our staple at such low prices—which cannot help the planter; but even these show a little profit in the minimum prices which have been suggested as new season's opening market rates.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY HART,

Bangalore, September 12th, 1918.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India.
No. 18438/82 T C Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.
From Lt. Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.
To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.
Dated the 4th September, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,— I have the honour to invite a reference to my circular letters Nos. 12293/12335 T.C. dated the 30th May 1918 and 13718/60 T.C. dated the 17th June 1918 regarding the percentage of manufacture etc. under the new (1918) contract, and to circulate for your information and guidance the following extracts from telegraphic correspondence between the Food Controller and myself:—

FOOD CONTROLLER'S CABLE NO. 106 DATED THE 30TH AUGUST, 1918.

* * * Your 267 our 83. Presume you are taking correct percentage of present manufacture and not taking total manufacture of any estate * * *

MY REPLY NO. 390 DATED THE 31ST AUGUST, 1918.

* * * * Am taking correct percentage of present manufacture and not total crop of any estate. Roughly two invoices shipped to you and third sold locally. But last week owing to great shortage of tea for tonnage I took about 7,500 chests extra broken teas from Calcutta sale invoices, on understanding they would be treated outside ordinary grade percentage * * * *

I would remind shippers of the necessity of ensuring that the Food Controller receives the correct percentage of present manufacture. He has agreed that it would cause great confusion if he were to insist on 66% of each grade of each garden invoice being sorted out and shipped to him. The only way, therefore, to adjust matters is to ship to the Food Controller roughly two out of three original invoices, taking care that any inequalities in assortment in a particular invoice tendered to him are corrected in subsequent invoices so tendered.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY, Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 18524/37 T.C., dated the 4th September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 18600-44 T.C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.
From Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.
To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.
Dated the 5th/6th September, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—Wtih reference to my circular Memo. No. 18283/18327 T.C. dated the 2nd instant, regarding the recent fall in exchange, I have the honour to reproduce for your information the following extract from the Food Controller's cable No. 108, dated the 4th instant.

"Your 391. We understand from Chartered Bank that rates on demand and usance bills have all been reduced 1/32nd. They are further cabling to Calcutta to make additional reduction in the buying rate of our four months date bills as the rate for this usance should be lower by about

1/16th than that for three months sight drafts. We cannot recognise advance sales of drafts by shippers and were unaware of that procedure. We think Banks would meet sellers if they approached them. We can only recognise exchange of the day."

The Exchange Banks have not as yet been advised from London of the further reduction in the rate of exchange, but advices are expected in a day or two. I have enquired from the Food Controller whether, with reference to the expression "exchange of the day" the word day means date of shipment, date of the bill of lading or date on which the invoices of cost are presented to me for counter-signature. His reply will be communicated to shippers when received. Meanwhile, as previously advised per slips attached to countersigned bills for shipments from Calcutta and Chittagong, I am passing bills temporarily at the rate fixed in the contracts, on the understanding that the difference between the old and new rates may have to be refunded later. For the next few days also I shall hold up bills for Calcutta and Chittagong shipments on the advice of the President, Exchange Banks Association.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY, Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 18645/33 T. C., dated 5th/6th September, 1918. Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
for Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India.
No. 18743/92 T. C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.
From Lt. Col. W. M. Kennedy C. I. E., I. A.
Tea Commissioner for India.
To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.
Dated the 6th/7th September, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—During the past few days several firms have applied to me in Calcutta for permission to draw bills to adjust the difference between the temporary flat rates and the contract prices fixed by the Food Controller in respect of the teas of the estates represented by them, and I have replied that I am unable to do so until the Food Controller advises me of the rates. In this connection I have the honour to reproduce below the following extract from the Food Controller's cable No. 110 dated the 5th instant :—

"To reduce work am instructing London Companies to draw at tender prices although not all definitely agreed yet. Defer countersigning adjusting invoices until we cable prices."

I shall advise shippers of such rates fixed by the Food Controller directly I receive them. I trust that this will save shippers the trouble of making useless references to me on this subject.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY. Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 18835/43 T.C., dated 7th September, 1918.
Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, has returned from his tour in Coorg.

The Director, Labour Department, has also returned.

The Manager, Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, asks us to publish the fact that the Directors have declared an interim dividend on the "A" and "B" shares for the half year ending 30th June last at the rate of 12% per annum less tax.

We publish the proceedings of the General Meeting of the Wynaad Planters' Association.

We publish a reply from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association to the Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department.

Our correspondence columns are mainly taken up with interesting letters on questions vitally affecting coffee planters during the present and future seasons.

We are sorry to report that we hear that that Mr. Leslie Rogers, the Honorary Secretary, of the Nilgiri Planters' Association for two consecutive years has resigned the Secretaryship of that Association, as a protest against the recent dismemberment of the Nilgiri Planters' Association.

There will be a meeting of Coffee planters at Chickmaglur on October 1st and another meeting of the same on October 7th in the U. P. A. S. I. Offices to meet Mr. Stille.. We shall have much pleasure in publishing the thermometer when acreages are sent in.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	75,761	0	0
Mr. A. Ff. Martin	75	0	0
Mr H. L. Pinches	160	0	0
Messrs. The Kerala Rubber Co., Ltd. ...	300	0	0
„ The Mooply Valley Rubber Co., Ltd. ...	300	0	0
Interest received	447	2	0
Total Rs...	77,043	2	0

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on September 11th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Craig, Gwynne, Lobban, McBain, Malcolm, Powell, Abbott (Honorary Secretary). *Visitor.*—Mr. Eaton.

MR. MALCOLM IN THE CHAIR.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAST MEETING.—These were confirmed.

2398. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to Collector of Malabar suggesting that Mr. Gillatt be appointed the Wynaad representative on the Calicut Committee and the names of local committee (para 2387).

2399. RESTRICTION OF EXPORT OF GRAIN FROM MYSORE.—Read correspondence. The Meeting discussed the whole question. It was considered that the weekly requirements of the Malabar Wynaad District were 200 pullahs of raggi and 154 pullahs of rice. Instructions were given to the Emergency Committee. The following names were added, Messrs. Malcolm, McBain, Mr. K. N. Choyikutti Deputy Collector, the Tahsildar and the Deputy Tahsildar, with such merchants in the various centres as the Deputy Collector may nominate. The committee is to meet as soon as possible. (It met on September 13th.)

2400. ENDORSING WARRANTS.—Read the following letter from Mr. Evans I. C. S. Collector of Malabar.

Malabar Dt. Magistrate's Office,
Calicut, 12th August 1918.

My dear Abott,—With reference to the enquiries which I made into the question of the service of warrants in the Wynaad the Government desire me to inform the Wynaad Planters' Association that they agree with me that the matter need not be pursued further. The Government hope that the members of the Association will in future explicitly undertake the duty of endorsing labour warrants and will realize that such endorsements should amount to a responsible statement by the planter concerned that the warrantee was or was not on the estate at the time in question.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) F. B. EVANS.

To

A. E. ABBOTT, ESQ.,
Secretary Wynaad Planters' Association,
Meppadi.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to thank Mr. Evans for his letter.

2401. CONTRACTS FOR PIECE WORK.—Read correspondence between Honorary Secretary and Mr. Whitton. The Meeting confirmed the Honorary Secretary's opinion.

2402. U. P. A. S. I. MEETING.—Read Delegates report.

I have to submit my report of the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting which began on August 19th and ended on the 24th. The Proceedings that took place in open meeting were reported in the *Madras Mail*. I thought that the Committe Proceedings which were important would be published as a supplement. It was decided by the Chairman to reserve these for the Book of Proceedings which is however promised at an early date. It should be carefully read by those who take an interest in the Association as even those who were present find it difficulty to recollect all the points raised on various subjects during several days discussion.

Mr. Rae President of the European Association and Sir Bernard Hunter Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras spoke about the claims of the European Association on our Community and the probable effect of the Montagu reforms. I strongly advise you to read their speeches carefully when they are available. We have all read a great deal on the subject during the past year but I have not seen the arguments put more forcibly. Sir Bernard Hunter devoted his criticisms largely to the financial results of the reforms especially as regards the Imperial and Provincial Budgets. He speaks with authority on the subject and he was frankly pessimistic. I wish I had taken some notes of these speeches when they were quite fresh in my memory, but thinking they would be published in the press unfortunately did not. It seems to me a pity they were not delivered in open meeting when they would have attained a wider publicity than they will now. On the subject of statistics the Planting Member referred to the returns asked for by the Government of India as to the quantity of tea manufactured by estates, the acreage under cultivation and the number of coolies employed. Several estates in South India have not sent these in. As a consequence the publication of the important Blue Book on the Production of tea in India for 1917 has beeu delayed.

The Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. This was perhaps the most important subject dealt with at the Meeting and it was carried through very much on the lines of the so-called Coimbatore letter. Mr. Pinches made an excellent speech in favour of the Control Committee scheme and Mr. Vincent and others spoke very effectively. It was finally agreed to appoint a small committee to report on the whole subject to the Meeting. This was done. Their report was read in Committee and agreed to clause by clause. The recommendations differed very slightly from those published in the letter already referred to. The Executive Committee can recommend that the rate of assessment Rs. 1-8-0 for tea, Rs. 1-4-0 for rubber and Re. 1 for coffee, cardomoms and pepper can be increased but this must be supported by a three fourths majority of the General Council. The Executive Committee is to meet once a quarter and it was decided that the Genral Council was to meet "at least twice a year." It was proposed as an amendment to have three meetings a year. It was however decided that two would be enough. In case of a dispute among members of the Executive Committee any one of them can call a meeting of the Council. The expenses of the Council Meetings will have to be borne by District Associations and each Association has to be represented by two delegates. This will add considerably to our expenditure and will necessitate our adopting some such

basis of subscription as was suggested at the July Meeting by Mr. Gillatt and this subject ought to be settled at an early date. I stated that this Association thought that agents of the Labour Department ought to confine themselves to Departmental work. This was agreed to. Firms can become Members of the U. P. A. S. I. on payment of a subscription of Rs. 150 a year subject to ballot.

With regard to the proposal to incorporate District Associations the discussion ended in an agreement to leave the matter with some others for the opinion of our legal advisers. I explained that the opinion of this Association was that incorporation was unnecessary and that the U, P. A. S. I. subscriptions ought to be collected from individuals by the Secretary U. P. A. S. I. as is done in the case of the Labour Department. Personally I said that as an Honorary Secretary I would be sorry to have to undertake the work. I found on enquiry that this sentiment was endorsed by other delegates in the same position. Since then I have been informed and am permitted to state that incorporation is not considered necessary. Of course if any District Association wishes to incorporate for any special purpose it can do so. It involves individual members on election agreeing to a liability of a certain sum Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. Mr. Vincent told me that the cost of incorporating the Mundakayam Association amounted to about Rs. 300.

The only other subject I think I need allude to was the proposal to put an export duty of 4 as per lb. on all tea imported into India. I proposed a resolution to this effect which was seconded by Mr. Richardson and carried unanimously. This was a modification of last years resolution which asked for total prohibition.

I have brought in the newspaper reports of the Meeting, the revised agenda paper and the list of resolutions passed as printed in the Chronicle. If any members have any question to ask I shall be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. Abbott was thanked for his report and for his services at the Meeting.

2403. PRICES OF GRAIN.—Read letter from the Honorary Secretary Anamalai P. A. and reply. This was approved.

2404. TEA STATISTICS.—With reference to Sir F. Barber's remarks on this subject, it is believed that much of the default is caused by officials sending the forms to be filled in, to estates that do not grow tea or that have been amalgamated into groups. A Member present mentioned that separate applications for returns were sent to 6 estates in Nilgiri Wynaad that have been for years worked as one.

A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) B. MALCOLM,
Chairman.
(„) C. E. ABBOTT,
Honorary Secretary.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

No. 855-O. ROYAL EXCHANGE,
Calcutta, 5th September, 1918.

FROM THE SECRETARY,
INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of the Indian Tea Association to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th July, 1918, No. 2141-F., in reply to my letter No. 488-O., dated 30th May, 1918.

Your letter may for convenience be dealt with in two parts. First in so far as it endeavours to establish the position of the Finance Department of the Government of India in relation to the liability of the tea industry to the payment of income tax under Act II of 1886 and subsequently Act VII of 1918, and secondly, the procedure adopted in connection therewith.

First, then, with regard to the liability of the tea industry to assessment for income tax, I am to say that nothing contained in your letter in the least degree alters the position which was taken up in my letter of 30th May last, namely, "that the income of tea concerns is wholly agricultural within the "meaning of the Income Tax Act."

The Government of India, it appears, have now changed their attitude solely, as is admitted, on the opinion of Dr. Kenrick given in December 1915 disagreeing with the opinion expressed by Sir G. C. Paul, the then Advocate-General, in 1886 or soon after. Government not only accepted the earlier opinion but gave it the force of a definite ruling by publishing the opinion in the Income Tax Manual for the guidance of assessing officers. Para. 4 of your letter is, therefore, misleading when it speaks of "maintaining the exemption." The industry was exempt by law and, had it not been so exempt, it could only have been made so by notification published in the *Gazette of India* under Section 6 of the Act of 1886. No such notification has ever been published and therefore if, as is claimed, the tea industry is not liable to assessment of income tax it is exempt not by notification but by law.

Under the recent Act, on the assumption that Sir G. C. Paul and the Government of India had for twenty-nine years been mistaken in their interpretation of the law, it is noted that a notification has been published in the *Gazette of India* purporting to exempt the industry from income tax until 31st March, 1919. The Committee of this Association hold to the view that there is no justification for this action and that the exemption they possess is legal and permanent so long as the existing law is in force. You rightly indicate that it will be possible, when the need arises, to have the question authoritatively determined by the High Court and there, so far as the tea industry is concerned, the question of liability to tax may rest.

Before, however, definitely leaving this part of the discussion, it is fair comment that the position of classes of persons engaged in agriculture in India in respect of taxation is unstable to a very serious degree when it is possible for an exemption to exist in law and in the opinion of Government for twenty-nine years, for that legal exemption to disappear in the eyes of Government on the strength solely of a fresh legal opinion (of which the class of persons concerned is left in ignorance) and for taxation to be claimed under a new Act without, as the Finance Department now admits, any material alteration in the wording of the section governing the exemption.

Turning now to the question of procedure and the grave conclusions which the Committee in the absence of further explanation felt impelled to draw from the sequence of events as set out in paragraph 6 of my letter of

30th May 1918, I am to say that the Committee are unable to admit the imputation contained in your letter "that the passages in various speeches, reports and statements.....have been "either misquoted, or insufficiently quoted or misinterpreted" or of "publishing a serious charge against "Government on an inadequate presentation of the facts, without any "apparent endeavour to sift the evidence on which their allegations are said "to be based."

Incidentally, the Finance Department seeks to justify its action in the case of the tea industry by the analogy of the shipping industry. The Committee can see no resemblance between the two cases. At the time Dr. Kenrick gave his opinion the tea industry had been legally exempt for about 30 years and, notwithstanding such opinion, Government's original ruling (whatever the undeclared intentions of Government may have been) continued until the new Act had been passed, and in the view of the Committee still continues. There was nothing in the new Act taken together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons and the declarations of the officers of Government to indicate any forthcoming change.

In the case of the shipping industry on the other hand the exempting sub-clause in the Act of 1886 was completely omitted from the new Act and there could, therefore, be no misapprehension on the part of the shipping industry of Government's intentions. Whether the withdrawal of the exemption which the shipping industry enjoyed under the Act of 1886 constitutes a further breach of the intentions of the new Act as given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is a matter with which the tea industry as such is not concerned, but at least the shipping industry could not but know what was intended whereas the tea industry did not.

From your letter under reply it is quite clear that in 1914, whatever the ruling of Government may have been with regard to sugar factories, Government at that date had not decided to remove the exemption of freedom from income tax previously enjoyed by the tea industry, Government's decision being to wait until the revision of the Act before taking steps to put matters in this respect on a clearer footing, nor did Government prior to the passing of the Income Tax Act 1918 notify the tea industry of any decision to remove such exemption.

The fourth paragraph of your letter which reads as follows puts this beyond doubt:—

> "On receipt of this opinion, which differed from that expressed by Sir G. C. Paul in the infancy of the Act of 1886 and referred to in paragraph 2 of your letter, the Government of India would have been justified in replying to the reference from the Bengal Government to the effect that the tea industry should be dealt with on the analogy of the sugar industry. But though they recognised the anomaly of maintaining the *exemption* in the one case while enforcing the tax in the other, they were anxious to show all possible consideration for the interests of the planting community, and thought that in view of the number of years for which the exemption had been enjoyed, and the inevitable approach of a comprehensive review of the existing income tax law, the matter might well stand over for the time being. They, therefore, determined to wait until the revision of the Act was taken up before taking steps to put matters on a clearer footing."

The Government of India therefore in 1915 recognised that the tea industry was exempt under the Income Tax Act of 1886, and, whatever the intention of Government may have been, this was the position, as far as the

public and the tea industry were aware, down to the passing of the new Income Tax Act in 1918.

From the 12th para of your letter the charge brought against the Committee of misquotation and misinterpretation would appear to be based on a nice distinction between "exemption from tax" and "freedom from tax." They gladly accept the actual words used by Sir William Meyer, as pointed out in your letter, as Sir William Meyer's statement most materially strengthens the case of the Indian Tea Association.

From Sir William Meyer's speech it is clear that the Government of India in March 1916 recognised that the tea industry was *exempted* from income tax, thus confirming Government's 1915 decision, and your letter under reply further confirms this. Now as my Committee pointed out in their letter of the 30th May 1918 in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the new Income Tax Bill it was stated expressly that:—

> "the Bill was not designed either by altering the rates of the tax *or otherwise* to raise money, and for this reason it *retained* the existing *exemption* from the tax on agricultural incomes."

What can be clearer than this? We have on the one hand the different statements by the Government of India prior to the introduction of the Income Tax Bill that the tea industry was *exempted* from payment of income tax under the old Income Tax Act, and on the other hand, on the introduction of the new Income Tax Act, a clear statement that as the Act was not designed either by altering the rates of the tax or otherwise to raise money, it *retained* the *existing exemption* from the tax on agricultural incomes. The Legislative Council unquestionably intended that the existing exemptions should remain and that the tea industry should continue to be free from payment of income tax.

In this connection my Committee call attention to the following statements contained in paragraphs 5, 6, 13 and 14 of your letter:—

(1) PARAGRAPH 5.—"There was thus, since no new principle was being introduced, no necessity for special reference to the omission of the word "Factory" in the Statement of Objects and Reasons or in the speeches of the Members of Government, explaining the Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council. It was only necessary that with the Government of India should announce their decision that the advent of the new Act the liability to the tax would be enforced in the case of the tea industry. This they did in the usual manner in their Finance Department's letter No. 216-F., dated the 29th January 1918, of which your Association are understood now to have received a copy."

(2) PARAGRAPH 6.—"Your Association will, the Government of India feel sure, understand that in the case of an entire redraft of a long and difficult Act it is impossible to refer meticulously to every change or omission and it certainly never occurred to any of those responsible for the form in which the Bill was presented to Council that any special significance could be attached to the omission of the word "factory" from the definition section. Its insertion between the words "storehouse" and "other out building" appeared to the framers of the new Act to be altogether inappropriate. Attention was called to it in Select Commitee and the reasons for its omission were stated at once."

(3) PARAGRAPH 13.—"In general, the Government of India consider that the whole procedure which they adopted with regard to the Bill should afford a sufficient reply to the charge that they had any desire to conceal their intentions, whether in respect of the Bill itself or any matter incidental

to it. They in fact took every measure which they thought would be likely to have the effect of making the public, and more particularly the commercial public, acquainted with their intentions.

(4) PARAGRAPH 14.—"The Government of India can take no responsibility for any failure of commercial and industrial interests to take advantage of the opportunities thus afforded for becoming acquainted with their income tax proposals. They also regret the action of your Committee in making and publishing a serious charge against Government on an inadequate presentation of the facts, without any apparent endeavour to sift the evidence on which their allegations are said to be based."

With regard to the first statement, my Committee note that the Government of India admit that it was necessary that they should prior to the introduction of the Income Tax Bill announce their decision to enforce the tax in the case of the tea industry, and that the Government of India also admit that the *only* announcement they had made was in a letter dated the 29th January 1918 addressed to the different Local Governments, and further it is admitted that this letter did not come to the knowledge of the Indian Tea Association or any of its members until sometime after the passing of the new Indian Income Tax Act. The decision of the Government of India was therefore never announced to the public or the tea industry although the Government of India admit that it was necessary to make such announcement.

With regard to the second statement, my Committee of course realise that it could not be expected that every small change or omission in the Bill could be brought to the notice of the public. When, however, a reference is made to the 37 paragraphs of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill and the lengthy Statement of Objects and Reasons and Notes on clauses attached to the Bill itself, and to the trivial formal alterations which are referred to in such Report and Statement of Objects and Reasons, it appears to my Committee extraordinary that no mention should have been made either in the Report or the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Bill of so important a change as the withdrawal of the *exemption* from income tax of the tea industry. In any event it cannot be denied that the Government of India stood by and allowed it to be stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Bill that the existing exemption would be retained, thereby misleading the public and the tea industry although the intention of Government in 1915 had been to put matters on a clearer footing when revising the Income Tax Act.

My Committee quite agree that it would not occur to anyone that any special significance could be attached to the omission of the word "factory" from the definition section and the tea industry and commercial public viewed the matter in this light. From the letter of the 29th January 1918 addressed by the Government of India to the different Local Governments, it is apparent, however, that the Government of India did attach considerable importance to the omission of the word "factory" as will be seen from the following extract from such letter:—

> 'In order to make it clear that businesses', which, though agricultural produce forms their raw material, are really industrial, are liable to pay the tax, the word "factory" which finds a place in the proviso to section 5 (1) (c) of the Income Tax Act has been omitted from the definition of "agricultural income" in clause 2 of the Bill.'

From this it appears that Government contended that the word "factory" was deliberately omitted for the purpose of making it clear that the tea

industry was liable to pay the tax. The statement contained in your letter is, therefore, a direct contradiction of the statement contained in the Government of India's letter of the 29th January, 1918.

With regard to the third and fourth statements, my Committee note the statement that Government took every measure which they thought would be likely to have the effect of making the public, and more particularly the commercial public, acquainted with their intentions, and in the 14th paragraph that the Government of India could take no responsibility for any failure of commercial and industrial interests to take advantage of the opportunities thus afforded for becoming acquainted with their income tax proposals. The sum total of the measures taken by Government to bring before the public their intention to withdrawthe *exemption* from income tax enjoyed by the tea industry for over 30 years before the Act, and opportunities afforded to the public to become acquainted with such intention were as follows :—

A letter was written from the Finance Department to the Local Governments stating the Government's intentions and this letter you state was not marked confidential. This letter the Government of India admits never came to the knowledge of the tea industry or the public until after the Act was passed. My Committee accepts the statement that such letter was not marked confidential, but it appears that it was in fact treated as confidential in the sense that the officials of Local Governments had no authority to bring it to the notice of the tea industry or the public, and it is clear that not one of the Local Governments concerned did in fact disclose the letter to the tea industry within their respective administrations. Why should the Local Governments disclose such letter? There was no suggestion in the letter that it should be disclosed, and a perusal of the letter shows that it was merely a letter of direction to the different Local Governments as to how they should construe the act in making assessments for income tax.

The discussion in the Select Committee. Here your letter admits that the intentions of Government were explained *once only* at a meeting of the Select Committee at which, the Select Committee in their report state, the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Bray was *unable* to attend.

The above were the only measures and opportunities afforded to the public of becoming acquainted with the intentions of Government on this question. On the other hand, the Report of the Select Committee explains with much care the intentions of Government and appears to call attention to every alteration in the law and procedure under the new Act, but there is not the slightest reference to the Government of India's intention to withdraw the *exemption* previously enjoyed by the tea industry. The Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Bill not only makes no mention of the Government of India's intention, but on the contrary it contains the statement that the existing *exemption* is to be retained.

The Committee hold, therefore, that they were justified in forming and publishing the serious conclusions to which the facts led them and they do not admit that those conclusions were based "on an inadequate presentation of the facts and without any endeavour to sift the evidence on which they based their case."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. M. HAYWOOD,

Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mundakayam,
11th September, 1918.

Coffee Combine.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Yet another *Chronicle* in last evening and still no sign of our coffee "leaders" combining against the common *outside* foe, while Mr. Lake of "let's *all* pay Rs. 1/5/- per acre" fame politely twits Mr. Danvers on the latter's honest suggestions with the characteristic retort "na poo," followed later by "wait and see," frittering away valuable time in "sweet nothings" and meanwhile Mr. Abbott's gross libels on coffee are still permitted by our "leaders" to pass unchallenged.

I beg to emphasise here (for the benefit of the gentry who accuse me of always assuming the false position of a "leader" while backed by no sort of "mandate") that the remarks to which I shall presently allude ought to have been taken up at the U.P.A.S.I. meeting itself and I have waited these three weeks—apparently in vain—to give our laggard "leaders" time to speak up.

I now reluctantly "dash" into print merely to remedy their omission and because I too am "interested in coffee." The remarks to which I refer were published in the *Madras Mail* of August 22nd *P.C.* columns 4 and 5. They are (1) (column 4, 26 lines from the bottom of the page)" in substitute for other *more harmful drinks such as coffee* (Italics mine) (2) (column 5 line 90) "It is almost *as wicked* to encourage the use of this imported Tea *as* it would be *to rear an innocent child on Gin or Coffee* (again italics mine) and (3) (continuing). "They (the Tea Cess Committee) are spending Rs. 75,000 this year on trying *to break the American troops* in France *of their coffee drinking habits*" (again italics mine)! And this, let it be borne in mind, is that same gentleman, who in "tearing up" my "3 Association Scheme" told us that Tea Planters loved their Brothers the Coffee Planters and "everybody from the Planting Member down to X" had expressed their opinion of "the unspeakable Mr. Newby" (to whose out-burst against Coffee Planters I had referred in support of my contention that Tea and Coffee interests are, and always *must* be, diametrically opposed which Mr. Abbott was trying to disprove), and that it "was not Cricket" (or words to that effect) to quote Mr. Newby as an instance. Further comment from me is unnecessary.

Will Mr. Abbott now kindly explain these remarks and *justify them* if he can, and will our leaders *now* take it up, please.

Further, has it not struck any *other* Coffee Planters that if the Tea men are spending Rs. 75,000 to oust Coffee that it is purile to quibble over trifles and *imperative* that all Coffee Planters who *will* bind themselves (to pay a tonnage cess) be at once formed into a "Coffee Cess Combine" for the furthering of their own interests *first* and coffee generally when the generality of Coffee Planters come in?

I commend this idea to our stalwarts and let the pusillanimous haggle over "the difficulties."

Yours faithfully,

R. W. B. GOMPERTZ.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Coffee Combine.

Sir,—As so many seem to have much the same idea of what should be done to ascertain the views of coffee planters on the proposed combine, I beg to suggest that Mr. Foster's plan that Mr. Hart should keep a thermometer of the crops of those willing to join should be *immediately* given effect to—and we hope you will be good enough to publish the weekly readings as you did in the case of the Labour Department.

Will you kindly intimate in your next issue your willingness to do this? And ask, in a prominent place, for names and estimated number of tons; the latter only for publication, and the former only for the information of Committee, until details have been thrashed out and a formal guarantee requested. Meanwhile, it is to be hoped that *no one* will be induced to enter into forward contracts at any price, still less for anything under Rs. 50 and 40, as already suggested. I have more than one letter in which the writers think the suggested minimum price too low.

Mr. Stille's letter gives us a unique opportunity, with its ready organisation, of combining a Coffee Sales Propaganda with our defensive scheme. This seems to be the coffee Planters' hour, the tide at the flood; and if we lose it, we may write ourselves down as infra-men, and then join a labour corps for Busra, where we may sit at the feet of the Arab until we have learnt to combine, and to see a little further than the ends of our noses, when perhaps a Moses may arise to lead us back, sadder but far, far wiser.

It is hoped that much may be done at the meeting at Chickmagalur on the 1st October.

Yours faithfully,

C. DANVERS.

Tea.

Copy of letter No. 18825 T.C., dated 7th September, 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Assistant Tea Commissioner, Madras.

At the Meeting of my Advisory Committee for Southern India held at Madras on 18th of August last, I was requested to enquire from the Food Controller as to whether he would allow Southern India shippers the option of tendering additional broken teas in substitution for an equal quantity of leaf grades, and whether shippers might also be allowed the option of substituting higher grades of tea for dust. After consulting the Members of my Committee of Experts, I cabled to the Food Controller asking for his instructions in regard to the above two requests. The Food Controller has now replied acceding to both requests, on the following conditions.

(*a*) The substitution, at the option of the shipper, of broken for leaf teas will be allowed in the following three grades :—

Top grade—Broken Orange Pekoe may be substituted for Orange Pekoe or Flowery Orange Pekoe.

Medium grade—Broken Pekoe may be substituted for Pekoe.

Bottom grade—Fannings, Broken tea or Broken Pekoe Souchong may be substituted for Pekoe Souchong.

(*b*) Any higher grade *other than Pekoe Souchong* may be substituted for dust.

(*c*) The teas which it is proposed to substitute must be specially tendered *on each occasion* and must be specially examined and passed on each occasion by the Tea Expert for Southern India in order to insure that their quality is good and up to the standard of manufacture. In the event of the Tea Expert reporting that the teas tendered in substitution are not of good quality or up to the standard of manufacture, they will be rejected and will not be accepted at a reduced rate.

(*d*) Garden invoices for teas which are tendered in substitution shall be specially endorsed "Tendered in substitution for Orange Pekoe or Flowery Orange Pekoe, Pekoe, Pekoe Souchong, Dust," as the case may be.

(*e*) A shipper who exercises the option allowed him of substituting Broken for leaf grades or higher grades (other than Pekoe Souchong) for dust shall have no claim, because of such substitution, to any increase in the contract price fixed for the teas of the estate concerned.

Memo No. 18845/63 T.C., dated 9th September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 19138-83 T.C.

From

Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and London Controlled Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated the 13th September, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 18743/92 T. C. dated the 6th/7th instant, and with reference to the first sentence of the Food Controller's cable No. 110 dated the 5th instant reproduced there-

in, I have the honour to say that I am prepared in future provisionally to countersign the invoices of cost of London Controlled Concerns for present and future shipments, at the prices asked for in the tenders submitted to the Food Controller, on the understanding that if there is any difference between the tender rates and those finally fixed by the Food Controller, such differences must be adjusted. Tender rates certified as correct by the Indian Representatives of London Controlled Concerns will be accepted by me as correct for the provisional counter-signature of invoices as outlined above.

These orders do not apply to invoices of cost adjusting the difference between the contract and flat rates. As stated in my circular letter quoted above, such invoices will not be countersigned until I receive from the Food Controller confirmation of the contract rates fixed.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 19184/92 T. C., dated the 13th September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
for Tea Commissioner for India.

Mercara, 18—9—18.

TO THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Coffee Prices and Markets.

Sir,—At last the flood gates are opened and now "you (the planting community) are talking" as the Americans say!

I was getting apprehensive that we were going like dumb kine, to the slaughter again, this coming season. It is to be hoped that we are not too late in taking action to stabilize the coffee market.

The correspondence columns in the *Chronicle* of 14th instant have all to do with coffee under the headings; Coffee prices; Combination; Pushing Coffee; Coffee Markets, but there are really only 2 distinct propositions, viz., 1, Price of Coffee and combination to maintain the same at its true value. 2. Pushing coffee and establishing markets for the same in the East.

No. 2 is necessary to support our action in No. 1.

No. 1 only requires a little courage and immediate action.

No. 2 is the support line and requires organisation, time and money.

We must take action at once to stop the rot in prices, and we must support this action by rendering ourselves eventually independent of one lot of buyers in one local market.

We need have no fear regarding the first, that the Indian planter will not join us when he sees us combining to uphold the price of our produce. In this matter the Indian is better than we are! As regards

the second the letter from Messrs. Geo. Payne & Co. published in the *Chronicle* of 14th inst. over the name of A. E. Stille is the only one that has appeared, so far giving a concrete proposal with figures, and I see they are prepared to commence business if we guarantee the very minimum subscription of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 per mensem which amounts to Rs. 24,000 to Rs. 36,000 per annum.

This represents 24 to 36 tons of coffee valued at Rs. 50 per cwt. Out of 8000 to 10,000 tons total produce estimated for this season surely we can put up this paltry sum asked to start the business.

Yours faithfully,
G. K. MARTIN,

Ubban Estate,
Hassan, 19th Sept., 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Sir,—I have for the past few weeks read with interest the correspondence in your columns re the stabilisation of coffee prices and am heartily in agreement with those who advocate holding out a minimum of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 800 for parchment and clean native coffee respectively. To be effectual, however, the majority of planters, say 75%, would have to guarantee not to part with their produce under the above figures. The quotation made by Mr. E. W. Rutherford in your issue of the 14th inst. from the London Times would seem to point out the necessity for some action of this sort at once, and also for the raising of a fund voluntarily or through Government aid for the pushing of coffee in India and adjacent countries where there is undoubtedly a large demand if it can only be met. For the furtherance of this object the machinery is to hand and all that planters have to do is to supply the funds. In so far as my own interests in coffee are concerned I am willing not only to subscribe now towards a scheme of this nature but to be one of those disposed to hold out for a fair minimum price provided this action is made practicable by the adherence of the greater number of planters to the project, failing this those who have their present and future interests at heart ought, without further delay, through their Associations, to formulate some scheme for the sale in the East of our coffee and guarantee funds for this purpose to some Firm who can act on our behalf. I concur with Mr. V. Hunt as to the necessity of our coffee on the coast being auctioned, and the result of the sales published, in addition I should like to see a coffee market with sale rooms in Bombay. With the importation of coffee into India, prohibited, now is our opportunity to capture the Indian and Mesopotamian markets with their vast potentialities.

I would appeal to all planters to give these projects so ably advocated in your late issues their careful consideration, bearing in mind that in combining their position will be a very strong one and that in business transactions without some risk nothing of any value has or ever will be effected.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. H. CRAWFORD.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 39.] SEPTEMBER 28, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

We have much pleasure in announcing that an Assistant Chemist has been appointed by the Director of Agriculture, Madras, to work in the Laboratory at Bangalore. In future this officer will be a member of the Madras Agricultural Department and responsible directly to the Director. M. R. Ry. T. Lakshman Rao has been transferred from Coimbatore to Bangalore temporarily to carry on the work while M. R. Ry. C. V. Ramasawmi Ayyar, L. Ag. is being trained for the post.

Mr. Lakshman Rao is expected to take up his duties on 5th October and samples can now be received for analysis as before.

We publish the speech of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, on the improvement of coffee by Seed Selection and Hybridisation made at the Coffee Planters' Conference in Mysore in July.

We publish a copy of the Special Committee's Report on the Re-organisation of the U.P A.S.I. as amended at the General Meeting which should be read with great interest.

Like the Barber who "kept a poet on the spot" we have great pleasure in publishing See Dee's Rhapsody.

Our correspondence columns contain the latest from the Chamber of Commerce regarding Transmission of Coins by Post; the Pushing of Coffee from Mr. Kirwan and the United Coffee Supply Company, and letters from the South Indian Association in London, the Indian Tea Association and the Indian Tea Commissioner.

The Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., will attend a Committee Meeting of the Local Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association at Calicut on October 2nd.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	77,043	2	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
Total Rs...	77,073	2	0

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Improvement of Coffee by Seed Selection and Hybridisation.

At the Coffee Planters Conference held at Mysore in July, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, spoke as follows on this subject:—

Ever since Mr. Cameron called attention to the possibilities of it in his Report on a visit to Coorg in 1899 a certain amount of work has been done along the lines of hybridising Coffee to raise a new strain which will bear more heavily than the ordinary *arabica* and be more disease-resistant. A fair measure of success has been attained in several places, notably in South Mysore by Mr. Crawford and by Mr. Hamilton at Chundrapore, and by Mr. Jackson in South Coorg who has succeeded in raising on a large scale a very satisfactory hybrid which comes true to seed. It is to be hoped that before long this seed will be on the market as soon as Mr. Jackson has supplied his own requirements. Again at Doddengooda in South Mysore Mr. Kent has got established a good strain of Coffee which may or may not be a true hybrid; its history is unfortunately not known with accuracy.

The work of making hybrids is long and tedious and scarcely suited to estate conditions, however, and I still hope some day to see this work being done by an Economic Botanist on a special Coffee garden. As I have said before, it would pay Coffee planters to establish such a Station and expert even though they would be working more or less for posterity.

What I wish to speak of to-day, however, is a simpler matter which could, and ought, to be undertaken by every Coffee planter, namely the selection of seed. A treamendous improvement can be made in the strain of any plant by persistent seed selection and many of our economic crops are being annually improved by this method alone.

The starting point is what everybody has, "the best tree on the estate." I am constantly shown this in the course of my tours, but I am seldom or never shown what I want to see,—the fields of Coffee which have been planted with plants raised from the seed of this tree. Indeed the method of taking Coffee seed for planting nurseries which I see going on is as a rule a most haphazard one. There is no selection about it and in most cases no one can tell from which trees the seed came, not always even which field. This system is all wrong from start to finish, and in my opinion it accounts to a very considerable extent for the deterioration of the strain of Coffee which has undoubtedly taken place in some districts.

As I say the starting point for selection work is the "best tree on the estate," or the best several trees, judged by their yield under all circumstances even in bad climatic seasons, the shape and habit of the bush, its freedom from diseases and its resistance to leaf disease and scale insects. Having chosen a few trees like this the next thing to do is to cut out the Coffee round them to give them ample space, light, and air, and then to make arrangements for netting them when they are in flower. To do this four stout posts should be put in the ground at the corners of a fourteen foot square,

each post about ten feet high, and a mosquito net made to fit over them so as to completely enclose the whole bush. It is a good plan to sew a valence of stout cloth round the bottom edge of the net which can be laid on the ground and have earth piled on it to keep the net steady and prevent it being blown about by the wind.

The blossom set under this net must be self fertilised which is an important point. If allowed to set in the open one has no control over the pollen used and it may come from the worst tree on the estate. Seed self fertilised will come true to a large extent and reproduce the characters of the parent tree.

This procedure will no doubt decrease the normal crop of the tree but this does not really matter, enough seed will usually be obtained to plant up a fair sized nursery. It is possible that the introduction of bees under the net might help the pollination and increase the crop. This has been tried, but I understand that the bees did nothing but fly round and round the net trying to escape. This may have been because the net was not big enough and more observations on the point are required. I recently published in the *Chronicle* a note on pollination work done in California with bees on Plum trees. In this case hives of bees were introduced under the nets.

As soon as the fruit is set the net may be removed and stored for future use. Work should then be begun on the preparation of the nursery which is to receive the seed, and this nursery should be made with all the skill and experience at the command of the planter. It is a special nursery worth infinite trouble and expense to ensure its success. The berries should be gathered when as ripe as possible and pulped by hand and only the best seeds chosen. Pea berry need not be rejected as peaberry is an accident and not an inherited character.

The nursery plants should be spaced widely and most carefully attended to and sprayed with Bordeaux Mixture if necessary to protect them from attacks of leaf disease. When ready to plant out a second selection should be made and this second selection is most important. Only the very best plants should be put out. A weakly plant or one of bad shape should be rejected as should even doubtful plants. In my opinion it is a very good nursery indeed from which 75 per cent. of the plants can be put out. It often happens that on looking at a new clearing I see a corner which is very poor compard with the rest and I am told that it was "planted with the tail enc of the nursery". Well, it does not pay to plant out that tail end of the nursery and it is better to leave a portion unplanted for a year and keep it under a green dressing crop than to put out poor plants.

The next stage is to select the best three or four bushes from the clearing planted from the first selected seed as soon as they come into bearing and to repeat the process. By this means each clearing would improve in strain and in course of time a vigorous strain of coffee would be built up. I am inclined to think that this is what has happened in the case of Mr. Kents plants accidentally. The seed wss isolated in a village garden and a selected strain has been established which is as good as a hybrid.

I am convinced that a process of selection of this sort over a period of 10-20 years would make a great improvement in the yield and welfare of the

Coffee estates and that it would be a better plan of rejuvination than trying to introduce new seed from other countries which will not be selected seed and will need acclimatisation and subsequent selection in any case. On any estate all sopplies put out should be grown from selected seed and special nurseries.

Experiments with seed selection have been carried out for years by the Department of Agriculture in the Dutch East Indies. In these experiments the seeds from each selected tree are sown and cultivated separately and the growth and production of the different lots are compared amongst themselves and the tree which gives the most vigorous and productive descendants is chosen to provide seed for the future. In many cases it has been found possible by this method of seed selection to separate a large number of varieties which have been proved constant by successive sowings. *Coffee arabica* has in this way been made to yield not less than fourteen such varieties and I am inclined to think that the Doddengooda so-called hybrid is not a hybrid at all but a variety of this nature.

In the *Planters' Chronicle Vol. XII. p. 40* a note was published on the Jackson Hybrid at Dubarri. These hybrids planted under the most adverse conditions and without manure have now given three big crops without any sign of dying back. A sample of the bean has been very favourably reported on in England and the experiment has so far proved a great success.

Last September the final step in this experiment was begun, namely the planting out of this hybrid on an estate scale. Last week I had the pleasure of inspecting the first clearing of this hybrid at Malamby-some 23 acres in extent. It is planted in good soil and under ordinary estate conditions and the clearing is an object lesson in what a vigorous strain of Coffee will do. Though only just a year old the large majority of the trees are three feet six inches in height and have 13 and 14 pairs of primacs, closely set together. The plants are very healthy and growing vigorously and there were no failures from drought. The plants will have to be topped when less than 18 months out and will bear a crop in their second year and a good crop too, surely a record for Arabica coffee.

The type is very even indeed, the plants in the row being as like as peas in a pod. In fact there is less difference to be seen between plant and plant than in an ordinary Arabica clearing. There is little to show that the plant is a hybrid except its remarkably vigorous growth and a slight crinkle to the leaf.

This long experiment of Mr. Jackson's has now reached the last stage. It only remains to send home a shipment of the coffee from this plant and let it stand the test of competition in the open market with other South Indian Coffees of good mark. This test is looked forward to with the utmost confidence and I would once more impress upon doubters that they should visit Malamby and see for themselves what seed selection and hybridisation of Coffee can result in.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.

Copy of Special Committee's Report on Re-organization of U. P. A. S. I. as amended at General Meeting

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.—That the rates of subscription proposed by the Control Committee be accepted, but the General Committee be empowered to raise the rates by a sum not exceeding 2 annas in any one year which may be imposed on either the whole acreage, or on such acreage as may be considered interested. That any future increase of subscription can only be imposed by the calling of a meeting for the special purpose, and that such an increase can only be imposed by a three-fourths majority.

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE.—The details of expenditure on Headquarters and Labour and Scientific Branches were examined and accepted The Committee noted that there was a balance of Rs. 20,000 of estimated income over expenditure, but considered that this would all be required for the establishing of new Agencies and—or for the Rubber Mycologist.

RUBBER MYCOLOGIST.—The Committee noted that the estimate did not provide for the initial, or unrecurring, expenditure in connection with the special Mycologist for rubber. They consider that Government should at once be asked to procure a Mycologist. That meanwhile permission might be obtained for the Mycologist to live at Coimbatore and have the use of Mr. McRae's laboratory whilst arrangements are being made for the erection of buildings at Mundakayam and the requisite equipment.

HEAD QUARTERS.—The Committee recommend that the Control Committee's suggestion that Coimbatore be made Headquarters be adopted as a temporary measure, as the income that can be expected on the Control Committe's rates of subscription will not be sufficient to cover all extra expense involved by making Madras the Headquarters.

The Committee find that to enable the Headquarters of the Association to be established at Madras it would be necessary to raise the subscriptions by two annas all round.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.—To consist of two representatives from each affiliated Association. The General Committee to meet at least twice a year. Expenses to be borne by District Associations. The Executive Committee shall be *Ex-officio* Members of the General Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The Executive Committee to consist of the Chairman, Planting Member (both ex-officio) and three members, one each to represent tea, Rubber, and Coffee who shall be annually elected by the General Committee. At the same time as the foregoing are electod three other such representative shall be elected as Members-in-waiting of the Executive Committee. Such Members-in-waiting shall receive copies of all papers issued to the Members of the Executive Committee, and in the ordinary way may at their option attend the meetings of the Executive Committee at their own expense but without the right to vote. Members-in waiting can only take the place of their active Members in cases of emergency and with the Chairman's consent.

The General Committee shall nominate one of the Members of the Executive Committee other than the Planting Member as Vice-Chairman. In case when the Vice-Chalrman presides at meetings of the Executive Committee, his member-in-waiting takes the Vice-Chairman's previous place.

In the Executive Committee, voting shall be on a personal basis, the Chairman and Planting Member each having a vote. The Executive Committee's expenses to be paid from the funds of the U. P. S. A. I. The Executive Committee to meet at least once a quarter.

ADMISSION OF FIRMS TO MEMBERSHIP.—All firms who are proprietors of estates or authorised agents of proprietors shall be eligible for full membership with one vote. Admission to be by ballot of the General Committee and subscription Rs. 150 per annum.

DATE OF RE-ORGANIZATION: shall be 1st January 1919.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY. A Secretary to be advertised for at once and that this meeting should appoint a Committee to consider applications with power to appoint the Secretary.

The following Committee was appointed:—

Messrs. Mackie, Lake, and Pinches.

GUARANTEES.—Subscriptions to be guaranteed for five years.

PERSONAL MEMBERS.—Ex-Chairman and Ex-Planting Member be allowed to be personal members on existing terms for two years from the year of their holding office.

DUTIES OF STAFF AND INDIAN AGENTS.—Without direct orders from the Executive Committee subordinate labour staff and Indian Agents should not be permitted to undertake any duties other than those directly connected with labour.

VOTING ON GENERAL COMMITTEE AND AT GENERAL MEETING.—Voting to be on an acreage basis every 100 acres or major portion thereof to carry one vote.

The Committee recommend that all affiliated Associations adopt the same principle of voting.

PLACE OF MEETING.—The Executive Committee be empowered to fix the place of the annual, general, and all other meetings.

RECOVERY OF OUTSTANDING TO PRESENT LABOUR DEPARTMENT.—The Committee urges on all subscribers to the present Labour Department the necessity of paying up outstanding subscription so that the re-organized Association can start with a clean Balance Sheet.

Any Balance of funds that may be left over after closing down the present Labour Department and settling all claims against it together with all moveable and immovable property should be handed over to the re-organized U. P. A. S. I. to be set against the initial expenses that will have to be incurred in connection with the starting of the new scheme.

The present Labour Department subscriptions are liable up to 30th June 1919, but the Control Committee be empowered to remit the last two or three quarters subscriptions without prejudice.

Affiliated Associations to be asked to elect their representatives for the General Committee by the 1st October, 1918 so that the Executive Committee may be appointed in time to arrange the transfer of the old Association to the re-organized body.

(Signed) H. L. PINCHES.
" A. H. MEAD.
" C. R. T. CONGREVE.
" C. LAKE.
" J. RICHARDSON.
" J. MACKIE.

SONGS OF "ARAB" Y.

I'il sing thee songs of Arab-y
Culled here and there from chanters;
The burden of their poems is—
"Put it on the Planters."

Arabs true from Basra way,
Annual West Coast haunters,
Seeking profits out-of-way
"Put it on the Planters."

Lime or Gobrah profiteerer
Thinking as he saunters,
Slaps his thigh, says "Hullo! Cheero!"
"Put it on the Planters."

"Seven eight for gunny bags!
Such a sum would haunt us!"
Cry the curious Curing Curers—
"Put it on the Planters."

Arabs in or out of guise,
Every sort of chaunters
Seeking victims for a rise,
"Put it on the Planters."

"Prices, taxes, gunny-bags"
Cry the coast enchanters
"Why deplete *our* money bags?
Put 'em on the Planters."

"Even worms will turn, they say,
But *not* the Coffee Planter—
Dig his grave and tread the clay
Well upon the Planter."

* * * * * *

Some day the Planter may arise
Armoured like a Scarab—
Turn upon his enemies,
"Put it on the Arab."

See Dee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Madras, 20th September, 1918.

A. H. MEAD ESQR,
Mooply Valley Rubber Co., Ltd.
Palapilly P. O.

Transmission of Coins by Post.

Dear Sir,—With reference to my letter of the 25th July, intimating to you that the Chamber had brought the question of the prohibition of remitting small silver coins through the post to the notice of the Accountant-General, Madras, and enclosing copy of a letter received from him, I now beg to inform you that the Chamber has to-day heard from the Post Master-General, Madras, that the Government of India have decided that the Planters in Southern India may be allowed a relaxation of the prohibition on the transmission of coins by post.

(Signed)
Secretary,
The Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

Madras,
September 23rd, 1918.

TO THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Pushing of Coffee.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of the 14th instant you published a letter under this heading signed by Mr. C. Lake, President, and Mr. J. Hayward, Honorary Secretary of the S. M. P. A., in which they stated that they, "together with the other delegates representing Coffee at the U. P. A. Meeting last month discussed with Mr. Stille, a representative of the firm of Messrs. George Payne & Co., Ltd., Calcutta, the possibility of pushing the sale of Coffee in India, Mesopotamia, the Gulf, etc. Mr. A. R. Stille of the above firm also contributed a letter to the same issue in which he suggested that we canvass throughout India, Mesopotamia, the Gulf and possibly Burma."

Now, Sir, it seems to me that as far as Mesopotamia and the Gulf are concerned, this is going the wrong way to work. From the point of view of the Arab "Good coffee needs no push," to adapt an old saying: or, as Mr. Hart puts it, "the Arabs *must* have coffee." Why then should we waste our money in trying to push the sale of coffee among them?

I can vouch for the fact that at the beginning of this year there was a brisk demand for coffee in Baghdad, in spite of large imports of the commodity from this country, at 17 annas per lb, while in the towns on the Euphrates the price was Re. 1 As. 4 per lb. What we producers want is a fair share of the profit, *i.e.* the difference between what the Arab consumer pays and the cost of production. In other words we want the elimination of the middle man.

Judging by what Mr. Hart writes, we are up against the same trouble in India, but with this difference that there is enormous scope for the expansion of the consumption of coffee is this country; and this is where a firm like that of Messrs. George Payne and Co., Ltd., might help us.

The only means of overcoming the wiles of the middle man are apparently by forming a Combine—a Combine strong enough to stand firm while our weaker brethren are rushing with their wares into the open arms

of the buyers. A partial Combine, which is the best we can hope for, can only succeed if those of whom it is composed feel convinced that the demand for their coffee exceeds the supply. Last year this was nearly the case. Strong in that belief some of us held out for better prices, and, as everyone knows now, we were only rescued after many anxious weeks by the Greek Government! What we must do then, it seems to me is (1) Combine, and (2) push the sale and consumption of coffee in India.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. KIRWAN.

The United Coffee Supply Company, Limited.
Coimbatore, 23rd September, 1918.

THE CHAIRMAN,
The United Planters' Association of South India,
Bangalore.

Pushing of Coffee.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Hayward's Circular of the 8th instant and to the recent correspondence in the *Planters' Chronicle*. we shall be glad if we can assist planters in pushing the sales of their Coffee in India and adjacent markets Our annual coffee Auction at Coimbatore, attracts a large number of buyers and we shall be prepared to hold similar auctions at more frequent intervals if planters will support us in doing so.

If it be decided to entrust any portion of the fund, raised by the proposed coffee cess, to a Mercantile firm or Company, we venture to suggest that it would be to the advantage of all concerned if the Company engaged were one that is thoroughly conversant with coffee and that has had successful experience in disposing of it on the Indian Market and we therefore beg, on behalf of the United Coffee Supply Co., Ltd., of which we are Managing Agents, to draw attention to the following facts:—

1. This Company's business was originally started by planters themselves with a view to developing local sales of coffee. Many of the original subscribers are still members of the Company and their interests are still represented on the Board by Mr. A. G. Nicholson, one of the Original Directors.

2. We have a Factory equipped with ample machinery for roasting, grinding and tinning 350/400 tons of coffee per annum, under normal conditions, and more, if we work at night, with ample accomodation to increase this after the War when Machinery and Tin are obtainable.

3. We have regular outlet channels for Raw Coffee including Agencies in Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon, and last year the Company assisted to relieve the situation by buying and disposing of over 600 tons of coffee.

4. We spend a large sum every year in advertisements, all of which tend to help the planter indirectly by pushing the sales of his produce in India, and we are confident that the organization already existent in connection with this Company might be very useful to the Planting Community in extending the sales of coffee by

(*a*) Advertisements
(*b*) A permanent canvasser
(*c*) The opening of a Depot at Basra and
(*d*) The popularising of coffee in the Bazaars

and we shall be much obliged if you will kindly circulate this letter amongst the various associations, so that the following proposals which we now make,

on behalf of the United Coffee Supply Co. Ltd., may be discussed at the forthcoming meeting to be held in Bangalore on 7th October.

(*A*) ADVERTISEMENTS. We are prepared to spend Rs. 25,000 a year for the next three years, on Coffee Advertisements, throughout India, Burmah, the Straits and Ceylon, provided the Association guarantees to contribute half the amount.

The advertisements would be prepared very much on the lines of those we are at present displaying, but with such alterations as may be mutually decided by ourselves and a Committee appointed by the Planters' Association.

(*B*) CANVASSER.—If the Planters of South India will guarantee us a sum of Rs. 1,500 a month under this heading for 3 years we shall be prepared to engage a European traveller and Canvasser to travel throughout India and adjoining markets to push the sale of Raw and Roasted coffees, and we think if a really competent man can be secured the results ought to be satisfactory. The Traveller's reports would be passed on to the Committee appointed by the Planters who would be consulted as to the various tours undertaken.

(*C*) BASRA.—We should suggest the opening of a Depot at Basra under a really reliable man, to be run at the cost of the Planters' Association, where coffee would be received, stored and sold on Planters' account, either by direct deal or by auction at a tariff to be fixed by the Association, and in the event of the Association accepting our other proposals we would undertake the control of this business for a monthly fee of Rs. 250 plus all expenses, and would pay the Association a commission (at their fixed tariff) on any of our own coffee that may be sold at the Basra Depot, or if it were preferred some arrangement might be made to run such a Depot on joint account.

(*D*) BAZAAR COFFEE.—We have, for many years, had a cheap brand of coffee on the market under our Empire French Label, packed loose and in small tins 8 to the pound and we would be prepared to push this coffee vigorously in the native bazaars of South India as an advertisement, at less than cost, for one year, provided our planter friends are willing to bear half the cost of this advertisement.

Any other suggestions of practicable nature would receive our most careful consideration and we should be glad to go further into the details privately, if required.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
for The United Coffee Supply Co., Ltd.
for T. Stanes & Co., Ltd.
A. C. GOLDEN, Director,
Managing Agents.

September, 24th.

TO THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Combine.

Sir,—Mr. Gompertz's savage attack on poor Mr. Abbott, in the *Chronicle* of 21st inst., reminds one of an incident related with great gusto by Mark Twain.

In one of his humerous articles, he gravely set down, as facts, certain wild and extravagantly improbable statements which were taken literally by some serious personage devoid of a sense of humour, who proceeded,

as gravely, to refute these so-called facts, and point out their inaccuracy and improbability, ending up by administering a stern rebuke to Mr. Clements for making such wilful misstatements ! !

Mr. Gompertz is evidently a serious young man, and withal somewhat peevish !

Mr. Abbott would do well to protect himself in future from such attacks by labelling his witticisms, as Bret Harte did "this is sarkisum,"

Yours faithfully,
An (ought to be) aggrieved Coffee Planter.

South Indian Association in London.

21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3,
London, 2nd July, 1918.

To all Members. Circulated for information.

At a General Meeting of the Association held on 24th June, the question of the re-organisation of the United Planters' Association of Southern India was brought forward, and after some remarks from the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Pinckney) who put forward the various opinions which had been received from India, the meeting discussed the proposed schemes and passed the following resolution, which has been telegraphed to Sir Fairless Barber, Ootacamund :—

> "That this meeting is of opinion that the scheme put forward by the Control Committee would best meet the needs of the Planting Community and agree to recommend its members to support it."

The following words were added to the telegram :—

"Hope an amicable agreement would be arrived at."

The scheme is referred to at length in the *Planters' Chronicle* of 27th April, 1918.

A. F. BRUCE.

South Indian Association in London,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.
London, 9th July, 1918.

To all Members.

Ministry of Food,
RP/IW Palace Chambers, Westminster,
Tea Branch. London, 4th July, 1918.

Dear Sir,—At Mr. Kinght's suggestion I cabled the Indian Commissioner last week asking where he was sending Cochin teas, and stating that your Association suggested that they should be sent to Tuticorin. I have a wire in to-day from the Indian Tea Commissioner stating that a vessel is now loading which will clear all teas at Cochin, and that Cochin is not closing down during the monsoon. I am endeavouring to arrange with the Ministry of Shipping for another steamer at Cochin in the middle of August.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) RICHARD PIGOTT,
Director of Tea Supplies,

Secretary,
South Indian Tea Association,
21, Mincing Lane, E. C.

South Indian Association in London.
21, Mincing Lane, E.C.3.,
London, 7th August, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—I confirm my letter of 27th June, and have none of yours to acknowledge.

The Chairman has handed me the enclosed telegram dated Bangalore, 23rd ultimo:—

"Knight. Consult Indian Tea Association press Controller accept broken teas for whole which can be placed in other markets."

This is a question dependent entirely on the views of the Food Controller, but an early opportunity will be taken in conjunction with the Indian Tea Association to ascertain if he is likely to consider the proposal favourably.

1918 CONTRACT.—Since my letter of 28th May, the terms of the new Contract have not progressed. The chief difficulty has been to draw up a satisfactory Payment clause, and informal conversations with the Ministry have taken place. The position is accentuated by the fact that several drafts in connection with Calcutta shipped Teas, which were drawn as supplementary at the date of the sudden rise of exchange from 1/5 to 1/6, have not been accepted by the Ministry, and endeavours are being made to guard against a similar experience. At present the Ministry seem willing to consider that their liability should be limited to one calendar month after the date of Bill of Lading. This suggestion has not been finally agreed to, but has met with some favour from growers on this side.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

Indian Tea Association,
Royal Exchange,
Calcutta, 19th September, 1918.

No. 903-0.

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Import of tea into India.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 28th August in the above connection. The General Committee have noted the terms of the resolution in the above connection adopted at the annual meeting of your Association on 19th August, and they have read with much interest the remarks of the proposer and seconder of the resolution.

2. I am directed to explain that the question of the import of tea into India has engaged the attention of the General Committee for some time past, particularly with reference to the import of tea from Java. In May last they asked the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, to take steps to exclude Java teas from India but Government replied that, after giving the matter their most careful consideration, as only 29 tons of such teas had been imported during 1917-18, they were of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by taking action in the direction suggested.

3. It did not seem to the Committee that, in view of the terms of the Government of India's reply, any further action could, at the time, be taken with any prospect of success. They had occasion, however, last month, to take up another aspect of the question, *viz.*, the probable prospects of British grown tea as compared with those of the tea industries of Java and Japan, and I am directed to send you copy of the marginally noted letter which they addressed to the Department of Commerce and Industry on the subject. A reply has not as yet been received from Government to this letter.

Letter No. 780-0 of 19th August, 1918 from the Indian Tea Association to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.

4. More recently it was reported that large quantities of Java tea had either been imported into India or were on the way here; indeed it was stated that two cargoes were then in transit from Java to Bombay. The Committee cabled the Government of India on the 28th August as follows:—

General Committee Indian Tea Association invite reference your letter No 4048 dated 27th May regarding their suggestion that import of Java tea into India should be prohibited. In view of small quantity of such tea imported in 1917-1918 Government considered no useful purpose would be served by taking such action. It is understood that considerable quantities of Java tea have recently arrived in India and that two cargoes are now in transit to Bombay. General Committee invite reference their letter No. 780 of 19th August regarding prospects of British grown tea as compared with hose particularly of Java. As there is every likelihood India will have considerable surplus this season for disposal Committee urge immediate consideration of question of excluding Java teas from India including cargoes now in transit.

To this telegram also a reply is awaited. The Committee have also wired to the British Consul-General at Batavia, Java, asking particulars of shipments from Java to India since 1st July.

5. In view of the representations which have been made to the Government of India already, and mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, it seems to the Committee desirable to await the result of these before taking any action in the direction of suggesting an import duty of 4 annas per lb. on all tea imported. In any case, they are not sure whether it is expedient to press for an all-round duty of 4 annas per lb. particularly as a considerable quantity of the tea imported into India from other places is green tea.

Yours faithfully,

.....

Acting Secretary.

Indian Tea Association,
Royal Exchange,
Calcutta, 19th August, 1918.

No. 780-0.

From THE SECRETARY,
Indian Tea Association,

To The Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Commerce and Industry.

Sir,—The General Committee have recently been examining the position and immediate prospects of British grown tea as compared with those of the tea industries of Java and Japan, and they think it desirable that they should place before the Government of India the conclusion to be drawn therefrom.

2. For the present season, the Food Controller is of course purchasing for the United Kingdom two-thirds of the tea crops of India and Ceylon, and, after allowing for the quantities he will take and for what will be locally consumed, it is estimated that there will be available for other markets at least 170 million lbs. of British grown tea. The Committee have been endeavouring to estimate how this quantity is likely to be absorbed. In normal years Russia of course takes large quantities—averaging about 64 million lbs.—but there is little prospect of an extensive demand from that country this year. And in the case of the United States and Canada, it is important to keep in view that Java has recently much increased her shipments to America. The figures are striking the shipments from Java to America for the last five years being :—

1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
581,352.	784,710.	1,309,184.	632,274.	32,568,000.

In the case of Japan the increase in shipments to America is not so noticeable but there also 1917 showed a considerable advance on previous years. The figures for the past four years are as follows :—

1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
36,987,000	43,148,000	48,361,000	62,498,000

The prospects of trade with the Australasian market were, until recently, regarded as good, in view of the prohibition by the Australian Government of imports into that country of other than Briitsh grown tea : but as the Government of India are aware, this prohibition was removed a short time ago, and the market is now open to Java once more.

3. Java and Japan both enjoy very considerable advantages over India and Ceylon in the matter of freight rates to America. The comparative rates are as follows:—

Java to New York	...	318/6*d.* per ton of 50 cubic feet.		
Calcutta to New York	...	500/-	do.	50 do.
Java to San Francisco	...	216/8*d.*	do.	40 do.
Japan to San Francisco	...	125/-	do.	40 do.
Calcutta to San Francisco	...	450/-	do.	40 do.

4. These very pronounced freight advantages in favour of Java and Japan are bound, the Committee think, to prejudice seriously the prospects of British grown tea in America, which normally takes some 60 million lbs. from India and Ceylon ; while it stands to reason that the Australasian market will also take a much larger quantity from Java than in normal times. The matter is one to which the Association has given serious consideration, and it seems to them that, if the trade of British grown tea with America and other markets is to be conserved, trade conditions must be equalised to some extent. The following two methods suggest themselves :—

(*a*) A reduction in the sale cost of tea which may occur, but which will only partly help. A reduction of 1 anna per lb. is equivalent to about 80s. per ton of 50 cubic feet.

(*b*) A reduction in freight rates to a level approaching those that may be current in Java at least,

The Committee do not know whether the Government of India can do anything which may lead to some relief of the position, but in view of the threatened danger to an important British industry, they think it right that the position should be explained to Government.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd.) H. M. HAYWOOD,
Secretary.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 19342/87-T.C.

From Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated 17th September 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I circulate for your information the following letter dated the 15th July 1918 which I have received from the Director of Tea Supplies, London :—

"I have to confirm that cables have been exchanged between this Ministry and yourself with regard to liability for the loss of Exchange, owing to the Banks being unable to negotiate tea drafts drawn at time of shipment until a subsequent date, when the rate had been advanced.

"It was always intended here that the liability of this Ministry in respect to each invoice of tea, should be determined by the sterling amount of the draft drawn at time of shipment, calculated at the rate of exchange for four months' usance then ruling. The contract is in conformity with this intention, but the Indian Tea Association have taken up the attitude, on behalf of their Members, that all and every risk of exchange was intended to be borne by this Ministry and it is possible that the question at issue will be referred to arbitration, and you shall be kept fully posted with regard to all developments.

There seems a natural distinction to be drawn between the guarantee to shippers of the current rate of exchange up to time of shipment, or to time of drawing of drafts without undue delay, and any subsequent variation in exchange after drafts have been drawn as their negotiation cannot easily be controlled from here. It would be quite possible that a shipper might not desire to negotiate his draft immediately, intending to secure sterling in London as has been known to be the case, and this Ministry might, therefore, have this risk of exchange for longer time than was really necessary. It is considered that the drawing of the draft finally fixes the amount of the liability, and this Ministry would not have expected to participate or receive refund if a fall in exchange, prior to its negotiation, enabled a shipper to secure more than his invoice amount of rupees, therefrom; neither does this Ministry expect to be asked to provide further amounts if a rise occurs before negotiation.

Pending settlement of the matter by arbitration, it proved necessary to return to the presenting Banks, the supplementary drafts drawn by Messrs. Duncan Brothers and Messrs. McLeod & Co., but this Ministry has, in

every case, accepted the drafts for the increased amounts where such were first drawn at the higher rate, and shall have to arrange for refund of the difference, unless an arbitration award should decide the matter in shippers' favour."

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 19388/96 T. C., dated the 17th September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
for Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 19690-735 T.C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated the 20th September, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 18600/44 T.C. dated the 5th/6th September 1918 regarding the recent reduction in the rate of exchange for four months date drafts on the Ministry of Food from 1*s.* 6 $\frac{7}{16}$*d.* to 1s. 6 $\frac{13}{32}$*d.*, I have the honour to inform you that the President, Calcutta Exchange Banks Association, has advised me that the Exchange Banks as a special case have agreed to concede to shippers the new rate of exchange on forward contracts outstanding when the alteration in the rate took place. After consulting the President, Exchange Banks Association, I beg to say that a refund of the difference between the old and new sterling equivalents should, therefore, be made to me in cash in respect of all drafts on the Food Controller dated the 30th August 1918 and thereafter that being the date on which the new rate of exchange came into force, and the Food Controller having ruled that exchange of the day means the rate obtaining on the day on which dratts should be ready for presentation to the Banks. Please note that a separate adjusting invoice should be submitted, corresponding with each separate original invoice of cost in respect of which the adjustment is made.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India,

Memo No. 19736/45 T.C., dated 20th September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 40.] OCTOBER 5, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

South India Planters' War Fund.

				Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	...	...	...	77,073	2	0
Messrs. Barber & Pascoe	...	...	...	75	0	0
Mr. G. L. Newbery	...	...	...	50	0	0
Mr. R. Harley	...	...	...	150	0	0
Mr. E. E. Broughton £25	...	...	...	375	0	0
Mr. J. J. Murphy	...	...	...	620	0	0
Mr. J. M. Wilkie	...	...	...	30	0	0
Mr. G. R. Pearse	...	...	...	100	0	0
Mr. C. J. Hayward	...	...	...	200	0	0
Mr. Stephen Bayley	...	...	...	30	0	0
Mr. Campbell Hunt	...	...	...	30	0	0
Interest received ...	...	...	...	4,762	1	1
Shortage in total Vol. X No. 35	...	...	...	100	0	0
do when bringing forward Vol. XI No. 11			...	0	0	9
do do do No. 23			...	230	4	0
do do do No. 49			...	180	0	0
do Vol. XII No. 8			...	600	0	0
do Vol XIII No. 6			...	30	0	0
			Total Rs...	84,635	7	10

Less		Rs.	A.	P.			
Excess in total when bringing forward Vol. XI No. 19	...	0	0	8			
Excess in total Vol. XIII No. 33	...	1,000	0	0			
Bank charges and printing paid	...	182	12	11			
Subscription promised by Mr. A. B. Boyd (Vol. X No. 35) written off now on account of death	...	150	0	0			
Subscription promised by Mr. E. H. F. Day (Vol. X?No. 35) written off now on account of death	...	125	0	0			
					1,457	13	7
				Total Rs. ...	83,177	10	3

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Improvement of Crops by Selection and Hybridisation.

All over the world crops are being improved by seed selection and hybridisation. An article on the subject in a recent issue of *Nature* describes the results which have been achieved with some of the most important world crops. The following is extracted therefrom :—

"Of food grains none is more important than wheat. The most marked achievement in wheat breeding is the production of a variety resistant, if not entirely immune, to the fungous disease known as Yellow Rust (Puccinia glumarum), as a result of the discovery that resistance to this disease obeys the Mendelian law of segregation. Once this was established it became a comparatively simple matter to transfer this character as an independent unit from the poor yielding Russian wheat, 'Ghirka,' in which it was found, to a wheat suitable to the conditions of England. The variety 'Little Joss,' which was 'made' in this way some ten years ago, is now well established in the Eastern Counties.

The possible economic value of this achievement becomes apparent if the enormous yearly losses caused by rust—perhaps not far short of 10 per cent of the yield annually—are considered. Another economic character that can be controlled in the same way is stiffness of straw, a matter of importance in those parts of the country, such as the Fens, where a weak-strawed wheat becomes 'laid' in wet seasons. It is interesting to learn that a short, stiff-strawed variety known as 'Fenman' has recently been produced which is likely to be largely adopted in the Fen country. But the possibility of greater additions to the food supply of the country is now in sight. It is well known that wheat is commonly a slow-growing plant; sown in late autumn or winter, it is harvested in August. Barley and oats, on the other hand, come to maturity more rapidly, and need not be sown until spring. There are, however, certain varieties of wheat which can be sown in spring, but, unfortunately, their yield of grain is considerably less than that given by winter wheats. The result has been that under the ordinary conditions of farming in this country the area that can be sown with wheat is limited to that not occupied by a crop during winter. Barley and oats must be grown after 'roots' because the latter are not completely off the ground until early spring. If, then, it were possible to make a spring wheat combining the character of early maturity with a yield approaching that given by winter wheat, the economic gain might be enormous, for, obviously, it would be in the interest of home food production to curtail the area occupied annually by barley. If, then, we could add to the existing acreage sown annually with wheat only one-quarter of the normal acreage under barley and oats, we should add probably 20 per cent. to the home-grown cereals available for human food. The possibility of making an improved spring wheat depends upon how far early maturity and yielding capacity are found to segregate. Apparently, there are indications that the former does, but the problem in regard to the latter is complex, depending for its solution on the clearing up of the difficulties that are encountered in dealing with quantitative characters, such as yield, as distinct from qualitative characters, such as colour of grain.

But when all is said, scientific plant improvement in Great Britain has made only a small beginning, due no doubt, in part to the General excellence of the varieties of economic plants now established in this country. The 'improvers' of agriculture and horticulture in the nineteenth century revolutionised the industry, and, as an outcome of their activities and influence, British seedsmen, largely by selective methods, effected very great improvements in economic plants. It is only comparatively recently that this country has fallen behind. Allusion may be made to the great advances achieved in Sweden as a result of the work of the Svalof plant-breeding

station. Denmark also is forging ahead, but, curiously enough, progress has not been remarkable in Germany, owing, perhaps, to the extraordinary cult of Darwinism which prevails there, and the consequent belief in the effectiveness of mass selection. In America considerable progress has been made from a scientific as well as from an economic point of view notably in producing a cotton immune to the destructive wilt disease.

But if a striking object-lesson of the succesful application of new methods to plant production is needed we must turn to India. Dating from the foundation of the Pusa Research Institute about the beginning of the present century, great developments in the scientific exploitation of Indian agriculture have taken place. Much credit is due to Lord Curzon, who, aided, it is now curious to recall, by the munificent bequest of an American, (Mr. Phipps), founded a department which it is no exaggeration to say has added thousands, and will add millions, to the wealth of the country. India undoubtedly presented a fine field for the modern plant breeder. If we consider the immense variety of her plant products, their value either as food or in the arts and industries, and, then observe that, owing to the absence of any skilled seed production industry, there is an uncounted number of identifiable races within each distinctive variety of economic plant, we can form some conception of the possibilities which even selection presents: superadding hybridisation, it is difficult to assign any limits to the field that is opening out.

It would be impossible in the ordinary limits of space to give a detailed account of what has already been achieved, but some indication may be given of proved successes in relation to the more important economic plants.

Mention may first be made of Wheat, of which upwards of 30 million acres are grown, and which was naturally one of the first crops to receive attention. Both selection and hybridisation have been brought into action, and several new varieties are now firmly established. In the United Provinces in 1917 alone 'Pusa No. 12' occupied 100,000 acres, and was extensively grown in the Punjab as well. This wheat gives a cultivator an *increased yield of 25 per cent.* over the varieties formerly grown by him, as well as nearly one shilling per quarter more on the market, owing to its improved quality. Another and later production of Pusa has on occasions given a yield of nearly fifty-five bushels per acre, which for India is an unheard-of figure, and may be compared with thirty-two bushels, the British average yield of wheat. In the Punjab another new variety occupied 97,000 acres, and it is estimated that the growers of this wheat were presented with an additional income of nearly 15,000*l.* In the Central Provinces improved varieties, returning to the cultivators considerably increased profits occupied 200,000 acres.

Remarkable progress is also being made in the production of improved varieties of Rice, the most important cereal crop in India. A variety known as 'Indrasail' isolated by pure lime selection, occupied 20,000 acres in Bengal. In the Central Provinces it has been necessary to establish thirty seed farms for the production of other new varieties. Turning to non-food products, we find that extraordinary advances have been made in regard to cotton (of which 20 million acres are grown in India). In Surat an improved cotton has been produced giving a premium value of 13 per cent; in Sind new varieties are giving a premium of 23 per cent. In the Central Provinces a new introduction is estimated to occupy no less than 800,000 acres, and to have brought the cultivators increased profits of nearly 900,000*l.*"

(To be continued.)

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a S. G. M. held at Yercaud, on 20th September, 1918.

PRESENT.—Rev. Father Capelle, Messrs. V. Travers-Drapes, H. S. Dyer, H. S. Dickins, S. M. Hight, C. L. Hight, N. Hight, J. C. Large, W. I. Lechler, E. L. Poyser, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, C. D. Ryle, Captain B. N. Short, C. K. Short, and Chas. Dickins (Honorary Secretary and Chairman). Mr. F. Pegg by his Proxy Mr. C. Dickins.

(1) The notice calling the meeting was taken as read.

(2) The Delegates Report (by Messrs. E Travers-Drapes and S. M. Hight).

Mr. E. Travers-Drapes having received his Commission was ordered to leave for Quetta at once hence his absence at to-day's meeting. Mr. Hight then read the report as follows:—

REPORT OF THE S. P. A. DELEGATES TO THE U. P. A. S. I. MEETING,—MADRAS, 19—8—18 TO 24—8—18.

(1) Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—Your Delegates attended the meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. held at Madras between the 19th and 24th August 1918:—

The procedure adopted this year for disposal of the business on hand was changed. You will remember that last year there were several Committees sitting at the same time who discussed the subjects on the Agenda before they were brought up in open meeting. The Chairman said that this caused some discontent us some Delegates who wanted to sit on certain Committees could not do so, and so this year each subject was discussed in Committee composed of all the delegates present, and finally disposed of in open meeting. This was perhaps satisfactory from the point of view of some of the Delegates but seemed to be a much slower method.

(2). MR. HIGHT'S SCHEME.—This scheme as approved by you at your Extraordinary Meeting of the 5—7—18, was brought up in General Committee and discussed.

The general feeling of the Delegates from other Districts was that they did not want this Scheme for their Districts as they were of opinion that the Labour Department was working very satisfactorily from their point of view. Your Resolution was therefore amended to read as follows:—

"That the U. P. A. S. I. be requested to consider the advisability of establishing a Labour Office at Yercaud for the benefit of the Shevaroy Hills Planters on the lines of Mr. Hight's Scheme."

This was kindly seconded by Mr. C. Lake of South Mysore.

Before the Resolution came up in Open Meeting your Delegates sounded others on the subject and found they were of opinion that we were more likely to succeed if we left the matter in the hands of the Control Committee of the Labour Department and we came to the conclusion that in view of the number of Political Agitators who are now trying to stir up strife between

Employers and their Employees it would be unwise to make public too many details of our Labour difficulties. The Resolution was therefore withdrawn with the proviso that it be left in the hands of the Control Committee of the Labour Department.

It now rests with you, Gentlemen, to say whether you demand that this scheme be insisted on or not.

It might not be out of place to here quote from the Chairman's concluding speech what he has said on the subject. It is as follows :—

'Mr. Hight's scheme was an honest attempt to try and simplify Labour difficulties, but hardly practical in view of the changes caused by re-organization. I do not think any of us could honestly agree to an idea that had as a primary object for the spending of money, the securing of subscriptions."

You will have to at this meeting elect 2 Members of your Association for the General Committee of the Re-orginised U. P. A. S. I. as their names are required by the U.P.A.S.I. on or before the 1st proximo.

Now, Gentlemen, if you are going to insist upon Mr. Hight's scheme being given to you, you must pass a Resolution that you do not see your way to sending in the names of any members of this Association for the General Committee till you hear whether Mr. Hight's scheme or such part of it as the Control Committee may think feasible is to be granted to the Shevaroys, or else you must leave it to the tender mercies of the Control Committee of the Labour Department, take the U. P. A. S. I. as re-organised and agree to stand loyally by the opinion of the majority as to what is best for all of us.

(3) REPORT OF THE LABOUR DIRECTOR.—From this report you will see that 79 warrants have been received for service in the Salem District. Mr. Martin told us in Committee that only 24 warrants had been received from the Shevaroy Hills against 1,200 cases filed in the Local Kutcherry. The former figure represents a period beginning with July 1917 and ending June 1918. The latter figures are for the period of April 1917 to March 1918, but this does not matter very much.

Now, Gentlemen, we think that if there is any explanation for availing of the services of the Labour Department to such a small extent the matter ought to be thrashed out. We would like to draw your attention to the advantages to be obtained by using G. O. 101, Under this G. O. a warrant is sent to the Labour Department undated and is not returnable for 3 months, so that you do not have to run in to the Kutcherry till the Magistrate intimates to you that the accused has been arrested. It would seem to us that either the Local Magistrate is not aware of this G. O. or else we are not making sufficient use of it and the Labour Department.

(4). RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—On discussing this in Committee, Mundakayam and one or two other Associations wanted subscriptions to be optional for the various Departments. A Select Committee was therefore constructed to go into the matter and pick out the best parts of the Mundakayam Association's and Control Committee's Schemes and submit a report.

This report is as follows and was carried in Open Meeting after being discussed para by para. (Here read Select Committee's report).

You will see that Coimbatore has been selected as the Head Quarters. We are pleased to be able to inform you that the majority voted for Madras and there is no doubt it will eventually be Madras. It was found that funds

would not permit Madras to be selected unless another two annas per acre was added on all round and so it was agreed that Coimbatore should be the Headquarters as a temporary measure. This does not mean that the Annual General Meeting should not take place at Madras, or any other suitable place. This question will be left to the decision of the Executive Committee. You will see that the two members of each Association in the General Committee have to attend a meeting twice a year, one of which will take place just before the Annual General Meeting. You have agreed to carry on your own Association at a subscription of annas 2 per acre. We think it would be a good plan if your Committee prepared an estimate of expenses at an early date before you decide upon anything so that you may know what your receipts and expenditure are likely to be. There is in this connection another point which we ought to bring to your notice, and that is the Legal Incorporation of District Associations. The question had to be left for reference to Legal Advisors. We would here inform you that if you are Incorporated as a Company under the Companies Act it will cost you Rs. 300, in all and this might be kept in mind. You will see that voting on the General Committee is to be on an acreage basis with 1 vote for every 100 acres or part thereof, and we have been asked to recommend that District Associations adopt this principle of voting at their own Meetings. This, Gentlemen, is a point for discussion. The Re-organised U. P. A. S. I. is to begin from the 1st January 1919 in which case the Executive Committee will have power to remit balance of subscriptions due to the end of June 1919.

In concluding our report under this head we would like to point out that Mr. Pinches informed us that when he was in Calcutta he went into the matter of what it cost the Plantations in that District to get their Labour. You will perhaps congratulate yourselves when you hear that he said it cost Rs. 15 per coolie, not in advances, but in money actually spent. Those interested in Rubber will be pleased to hear that the U. P. A. S. I. has agreed to pay for a Rubber Mycologist.

(5.) Coffee Cess.—The Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. in going to ask you if you are in favour of asking Government to levy a cess of Rs. 10 per ton on all exported coffee for the purpose of advertising its sale in India so that the U. P. A. S. I, may if necessary take action in the matter. We together with most of the Delegates interested in Coffee think that we are not likely to be successful as Government will insist upon having a unanimous consent and India planters are likely to oppose the idea. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Stille of Messrs. George Payne & Co,, Ltd., Calcutta, Wholesale Tea, Coffee and Cocoa Merchants. You will have read in the papers what he said and what his firm is willing to do for us. We took the opportunity of having an informal meeting with him. If we are willing to spend money on a Cess we cannot do better than make a start at once by imposing a voluntary Cess upon ourselves and the feeling of every Coffee Planter present was that we ought to do this and take immediate advantage of having struck a good thing in Messrs. George Payne & Co. They are willing to take over the exclusive sale of subscribers coffee. They have a Branch in Bombay and would be prepared to open an Office in Madras, Greece, and the Persian Gulf if necessary at once. They would advertise and undertake to start coffee shops and put up coffee both roasted and raw into small packets. Mr. Stille estimated that to get the business into good swing it would require an expenditure of about Rs. 5,000 a month but he was of opinion that a good start could be made on Rs. 2,000 to 3,000 a month.

Now the coffee crops from South India are estimated this year at 12,000 tons. Suppose we got only half of this subscribing to the voluntary cess. This would give us Rs. 60,000 and that is what Mr. Stille says he can do good business on. Messrs. Payne & Co. would if necessary take over the cess and work it, but Mr. Stille thinks the Cess should be on an acreage basis as you would then be certain of what the income is each year. It was suggested by some Delegates that the Cess might be calculated on the basis of average crops for the past 5 years. Messrs Payne & Co. are prepared to put up all necessary Machinery at their own expense, roast the coffee, and sell it in the bean and supply cheap roasters and grinders to retail merchants and coffee shops.

If they take your coffee on Commission sale they are proposed to pay an advance on what you deliver till the coffee is sold. Mr. Stille has agreed to meet representatives of the Coffee Industry at any time and place selected and then form a scheme. We ask you to compare this with what the Tea Planters get for an annual expenditure of over 3 lacs of rupees on their Cess Committee. This Committee does not sell *a single lb, of Tea.* They only advertise, recommend their selling Firms and induce the opening of Tea shops as profitable concerns. There is no check on what work they have done and their reports have to be accepted. Under the proposal now before you Messrs. Payne & Co. Ltd., are prepared to spend their own money to begin with, and they agree to give figures of what they have done which can be checked. Now Gentlemen we most earnestly request you to consider what you will be losing if you do not grasp what is now within your reach. This is the time to organise and not after the War. If we are now prepared to take our place in the competition which is coming after the War we shall have the upper hand. Messrs. Payne & Co., are of opinion that there is no doubt that there is going to be a big business in Coffee after the War and these are other Firms, to their knowledge who are going to take up the Coffee business and so it behoves us to see now that we come in for our own and not fall into the hands of Middle men.

Start advertising in Greece now and in other outside Markets too. Let us help ourselves and not wait till Government see their way to help us. If we wait for a Government Cess we might be talking about it for the next 20 years.

There was a suggestion about 18 years ago for a Cess when Mr. Gompertz was Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. and Government refused then, because all Planters would not consent. Are we going to get all Planters in now both Indian and European? If not is Government going to agree now to what they would not do before? Is there any reason why they should? We think the answer is obvious. Well then gentlemen are we going to help ourselves or wait till every Planter agrees to come in and till we have been ousted by Brazil? Let us stand together and show we can do something for ourselves and then we could compel Government to levy a Cess so that those who keep out and benefit by the money of others shall be made to come in. We have received the following letter of 26—8—18 from Mr. Stille after our return to the Hills. We think that all Coffee Planters will agree that this is a better scheme that Mr. Martin's and that it should be dealt with at once.

(6). ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.—Sir F. Barber was asked what stage the subject of the Manjavadi Ghaut road had reached. He replied that the last letter from the Shevaroy Planters' Association has been for-

warded to the Chief Secretary to Government for Public Works and no reply has yet been received. Sir F. Barber might be reminded to ask for a reply.

(7). NOMINATION OF PLANTING MEMBER OF COUNCIL.—Mr. Richardson was nominated by Sir F. Barber and unanimously elected.

(8). PROHIBITION OF COFFEE IMPORTS.—The Meeting passed a Resolution asking Government to reconsider the prohibition of British East Indian coffee to the United Kingdom.

MILITARY COFFEE RATION.—The following Resolution was brought forward by your Delegates kindly seconded by Mr. H. Kerr and carried. That with a view to helping Coffee Planters to dispose of their crops the Military Authorities be requested to consider the desirability of issuing Indian Coffee to the Native Troops as a ration and that with the object of meeting the requirements of the Army without any delay, the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., do write and ask the Authorities to be so good as to intimate by the end of December, 1918 or earlier, if possible, what quantity of coffee will be required for issue to troops in 1919.

(10). BRITISH PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION.—For affiliating the U. P. A. S. I. with this organisation a fee of £100 is necessary and to meet this a subscription of Rs. 100 from each District Association is asked for. Its aims will be found enumerated in Mr. Tipping's speech and that of Mr. Dandison seconding the proposal. It was agreed that the U.P.A.S.I., should pay them this subscription to recoup them for services rendered in the past and that after that we be affiliated either direct or through the South Indian Planters' Association.

(11). PLANTERS' CHRONICLE.—Your delegates were instructed to bring a certain matter to notice. This was done unofficially, to the Editor who promised to attend to it.

(12). PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—As instructed your Delegates voted in favour of help being granted to the Imray children.

(13). PLANTERS' WAR FUND.—At the meeting it was decided that the Fund should remain open as long as possible as it was felt that the men who are now fighting for you and us have a right to demand that we shall look after their dependents and them after they return. We trust that every one will look at it in this light and do what they can to support the Fund. It is hoped that the Fund will enable support being given to widows, men out of billets and the children of men return to die of general debility or shock as the effect of what they have been through. The fund now stands at Rs. 76,000 and it may be interesting to you to know that 80% of the subscriptions to the P. W. F. was subscribed by the Delegates to the U.P.A.S.I. Meeting in 1915. The Chairman's ambition is to see the Fund rise to Rs. 7 lacs instead of Rs. 76,000.

(14). EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—We were asked by the President of this Association to draw the attention of all Members of the Shevaroy Planters' Association to support the Appeal now being made for donations to a Capital Fund.

The amount required is 10 lacs, or an average donotion of about Rs. 125 per member.

Members are requested to give what they can according to their circumstances in support of this very important European Organization.

Those Europeans who have not joined the above Association so far, should lose no time in sending in their names to be enrolled.

In conclusion you will perhaps like to hear that your Delegates had the opportunity through the courtsey of Sir Francis Spring of inspecting the Madras Harbour and we were struck by the great facilities which now exist for storage and handling of cargoes. There is now room for 4 large ships to be berthed alongside the quay and the goods which are brought up to the sheds by the Railway Company have only a very short distance to travel from the sheds to the ship.

The following papers are laid on the table.

Messrs. Parry & Co., re-Fertilisers.

Messrs. George Payne & Co. Ltd. re-Coffee Cess.

Proceedings of The Coffee Planters' Conference.

Report of the South Indian Planters' Benevolent Fund.

Annual Report of The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

U. P. A. S. I. accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1918.

Members of District Associations who have joined His Majesty's Forces.

Rules, South Indian Planters' Benevolent Fund.

Report of the Director, Labour Department. U. P. A. S. I., for year ending 30th June, 1918.

This report has been prepared quietly by your two Delegates, but owing to Mr. Travers-Drapes having joined up he is unable much to his regret to be present to-day. Your other Delegate will be pleased to answer any questions to the best of his ability, and we thank you for the honour you have done us in sending us as your Delegate to one of the most memorable Meetings in the Annals of the U. P. A S. I. and trust that you will be satisfied with what we have been able to do in your interests.

Proposed by Mr. J. C. Large, seconded by Mr. V. Travers-Drapes, and unanimously carried.

That Messrs. Hight and Drapes be accorded a hearty vote of thanks for representing this Association at the Madras Meeting and for their complete report and that the same be printed with the proceedings of this Meeting.

THE RE-ORGANISATION U. P. A. S. I.—Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight, seconded by Mr. E. L. Poyser and carried *nem con.*

That the S. P. Association supports the U. P. A. S. I. as re-organised at the General Meeting held at Madras from the 19th to the 24th August, 1918.

(2). RESIGNATION OF MR. R. W. B. GOMPERTZ.—Read and recorded letter dated 15—9—18 from Mr. R. W. B. Gompertz to the Honorary Secretary resigning the Association from end December 1918.

(5). MR. STILLE'S COFFEE SCHEME.—(MESSRS. PAYNE & CO).—After discussing the subject to a considerable extent Mr. E. L. Poyser was elected to represent this Association at the coming meeting to be held at the U. P. A. S. I. Office Bangalore, on the 7th October.

(6). ELECTION OF 2 AUDITORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHECKING THE S. P. A. ACCOUNTS BEFORE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.—Messrs. C. Rahm and V. Travers-Drapes were elected Auditors. In the event of the latter being called up for Military Duty before the meeting Mr. H. S. Dyer to take his place.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting terminated.

(Signed) CH. DICKINS,
Hon. Secretary & Chairman.

North Mysore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held at Chickmaglur, on the 1st October, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. C. Danvers (Chairman), C. H. Godfrey, F. Urquhart, R. G. Foster, C. S. Crawford, F. Morgan and W. H. Reed (Honorary Secretary). *Visitors.*—Mesers. H. Kerr, E. Lund, A. C. W. Denne, F. Hugonin, L. P. Kent, P. F. X. Saldanha, St. John Hunt, J. G. Hamilton, C. Lake, S. Wilson, R. L. Steele, W. W. Prager, F. M. Hamilton, A. R. Cox, W. A. F. Lincoln, H. Allardice, H. Chaldecott.

CHAIRMANS' ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—We have a good deal to get through to-day of importance, and I do not propose to take up your time with a Presidential address on the usual lines—which is commonly a réchaaffé of past events, and some pious hopes for the future.

But I would like to say a few words on the chief proposals before us to-day, which are the Coffee Cess and the Fixing minimum of Prices. These two important subjects go together, and I think may be discussed together with advantage. The cess is chiefly fathered by the S. M. P. A., and our visitors, whom we warmly welcome, will doubtless give us their views presently. I look upon a Propaganda for pushing sales in the east as an absolute necessity for after the war we shall be fighting for existence in a world glutted with coffee. We have the door closed to imports now, and if we work up the Indian Markets, (and for which an organization has already been found it is hoped) we should gather much good out of the evil of this devastating war. Let us take the tide at the flood - the opportunity will never recur so favourably let us hope, being due to war conditions. Do not let us be put off because every one may not want, or may not be able, to join in. The proposed organization will reward those who do, by a preferential treatment which will be both fair and remunerative. Our money should return to us manifold, and to this material profit we may add the altruistic satisfaction of having done good to others, however little they may have deserved it. Some 10 years ago the quotation of a cess was taken up by the U. P. A. but after struggling with it for 2 or 3 years, it was turned down by the Indian planters, who were dead against it, and Government would do nothing unless we were all agreed, we accepted the position, and dropped the cess : but had we gone on, Gentlemen, would we have been in the painful position we found ourselves in last season, tumbling over one another to get a small but compact ring to accept our crops at any price? I

think not. The demand for coffee would have come from a greatly extended market, with which we would have been dealing direct. Never despair of educating Indians they are being educated by the progress of events, by the Legislative Assembly, by the newspapers, by their own intelligence, and by the appetite which comes from eating. They would have joined in the Cess by this time, and would not be having to sow again when we ought to be reaping.

The proposals to give a minimum price for coffee is more the offspring of the N. M. P. A., and, as befits its northern birth a rugged and pugnacious child. The object of both these proposals to the same *viz.*, the obtaining of fairer and better prices for our staple. So long as the war lasts each will be the complement of the other, and neither will be so effective by itself as in conjunction with its complement: but *after* the war, all our hopes of reasonable prices will rest on the success of our propaganda.

Gentlemen,—I consider this meeting the most important one held since the inception of our Association, for more than one reason. I have often heard the question asked "What has the Association done, that I should belong to it?" We may have different opinions as to the value of what the Association has done in the past, or forget that many adverse things might have happened had there been no Association—or we may even wonder what might not have been accomplished had those joined who have remained aloof but if we can bring off the proposed Cess, and the suggested fixing of a minimum price for coffee. we shall have done a stroke which will for all time silence the doubters and cheer the hearts of loyal supporters.

We were once without an Association for six months, as no one could be persuaded to fill what should be considered the honourable positions of President and Honorary Secretary. I look back with shame on my part in that disgraceful episode, and with gratitude to Mr. Browne who exerted himself to revive the seeming corpse of our Association.

Associations will be more and more needed as time goes on, and in the not very distant future they will have to take on a political complexion, especially the U. P. A.; for, make no mistake, Gentlemen,—we will have to fight for a place in the sun of Reformed India.

Another thing that makes this meeting important is, that it is practically the first time that the planting worm has turned against its tormentors; and by the success or failure of the proposals to be brought forward to-day, will the Coffee Planter be able, or not, to face a world which has always considered him an animal incapable of combination. Are we to sit for ever under this reproach? and pay for it with our substance too? Jungle dogs combine—coolies combine—those who batten on our weakness combine: are we the planting variety, to remain the only exception in nature among gregarious animals? Are we for ever to take our lickings lying down? Our boys in Mesopotamia certainly gave the Arab beans—but are we therefore to supply, under cost price, our beans to those who come to our coasts and bully us? I feel the indignity of our position keenly. Not only as commercial men, but as British men I appeal to you to rise up and slay the oppressor! Notwithstanding these blood-thirsty words, I am sufficiently pacifist to accept a "peace by understanding"—that is to say, the dealer must be given to understand that he is not to get ninepence for fourpence.

To sum up, I hope this meeting will prove the beginning of a remunerative campaign—the nucleus of a combination showing that the planter is not the invertebrate nonentity he has hitherto appeared—and incidentally the justification and glorification of our various Associations.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

Gentlemen,—The number of estates on the Register is 49 representing a total of 7,343 acres. Three Estates with an acreage of 767 acres have resigned payment of subscriptions has not been satisfactory this year—When closing the Association books there were 22 Estates with a total subscription of Rs. 1,465-8-0 in arrears—during the last two weeks 11 Estates have paid up leaving 11 still owing Rs. 692-8-0.

The revenue from the past year has been Rs. 1,232-0-0 from subscriptions, Rs, 109 interest on War Bonds, Rs. 627-12-0 refund from the Assistant Scientific Officer Fund, and a cash balance of Rs. 966-7-11 brought forward from last year, total Rs. 2,935-3-11.

Against this there is an expenditure of Rs. 2,066-10-10. The total funds to the credit of the Association are Rs. 2,000 invested in War Bonds, Rs. 1,500 on fixed deposit with the National Bank of India, and a cash balance to carry forward of Rs. 868-9-1. I find the Bank has not credited the Association with interest on the fixed deposit and current accounts and must draw their attention to this omission.

Benevolent Fund—I have remitted Rs. 100 to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.—a balance of Rs. 100 is still outstanding.

Gentlemen,—I beg to tender my resignation of the Honorary Secretaryship.

VOLUNTARY COFFEE CESS.—Mr. C. Lake spoke as follows :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—There is little to be gained by my giving my personal opinion on this proposed Coffee Cess as it is the opinion of the whole community that we want to get at. As you know this matter was brought forward at the U. P. A. C. Meeting some 12 or nine years ago but conditions are very different now to what they were then. Owing to Government having prohibited the import of coffee into India we are the only competitors for the Indian market.

The time seems to be, therefore, very opportune for starting a scheme for advertising our coffee. Unfortunately owing to our not having combined to help ourselves in the past we have no organisation competent to deal with the matter, nor have we any fund available for the purpose.

Messrs. George Payne and Co. have come forward with the suggestion. You have all read in the *Planters' Chronicle* but it is necessary for us to look well into all the *pros* and *cons* before we decide to accept their offer, and it is with this idea that we are asking all the Coffee Associations to send a delegate to meet Mr. Stille in Bangalore on the 7th of the month.

We have yet to see what support will be given to the proposal by the various Coffee Associations to the resolution framed at the U. P. A. S. I. meeting recently. The matter was referred back to our Associations as practically no notice had been taken of the resolution passed at the Conference in Mysore and until we know whether you wish the matter to be proceeded with or not it is impossible for the U. P. A. S. I. to ask Government to make the cess a compulsory one.

It is for you now to decide whether you wish the matter to be gone on with or not, and if you are in favour of the scheme, to instruct your delegate to the coming meeting as to the lines on which you think the scheme ought to be run.

After some considerable discussion the meeting was in favour of the following proposals :—

(1). That a Voluntary fund be raised immediately to start a propaganda.

(2). That a fund should be raised by a payment of Rs. 10 per ton payment to be quarterly.

(3). That a propaganda to educate planters to the value of such fund be attended to

(4). That the proposed subscription should be paid to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

(5). That two delegates be appointed to formulate a complete scheme in conjunction with the delegates of the other Associations and with Messrs. G. Payne & Co., such scheme to be subsequently put before the District Associations. The delegates not to bind their Associations for more than two years.

This Association is of opinion that a representative of the Planting Community should be employed on the staff of the firm.

COMPULSORY COFFEE CESS.—With reference to the resolution passed at the U. P. A. S. I. This Association considers that when the Planting Community generally has agreed to a compulsory cess, Government be approached in the matter of putting a cess on exported coffee not to exceed Rs. 5 per ton.

(2) That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I, be asked to write to the Director of Agriculture requesting him to give his aid in establishing a propaganda for a Compulsory Cess.

FIXING MINIMUM PRICES FOR COFFEE.—The following resolution was proposed from the chair and passed unanimously :—"That a combination of planters be arranged, pledged not to sell coming crop at less than Rs. 50 per cwt. for parchment and Rs. 200 per candy for Native (Havre Standard)"

Several points were raised and discussed and the following resolutions were arrived at :—

(1). That a reduction of Rupee one per maund for the Chickmaglore and Tarekere Taluks, and annas twelve for the rest of the District be allowed for local sales of clean coffee.

(2), Balance of last Season's crop to be exempt from restrictions,

(3). This combination to hold good for the 1918-1919 season.

(4). Public auctions should be held in Curing Centres,

ELECTION OF DELEGATES FOR BANGALORE MEETING OCTOBER 7TH.—Messrs, Foster and Hart were elected to represent the Association.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO U. P. A. S. I. GENERAL COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Danvers and Godfrey were elected.

U. P. A. S. I. DELEGATE'S REPORT.—Mr. C. H. Godfrey read his report as follows.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATES TO U. P. A. S. I. MEETING, AUGUST 19—24/18.

Gentlemen,—You will have already learnt from the *Madras Mail* particulars of all that took place in open meeting; it is unfortunate that what took place in Committee has to await the publishing of the Book of Proceedings—but the rough copies for revisal by Delegates must be returned not later than this week to the publishers, so I trust you will be able to read them in full well before the end of this month. No one, who takes a live interest in what affects him individually as part of an Association formed entirely with a view to safeguarding and pushing his interests, should fail to read them: and I here point out that the book contains two speeches by the Chairman of the European Association and Sir Bernard Hunter of the Madras Bank on the subject of the Montagu—Chelmsford Reforms that will well repay reading—and *re* reading. They are on a matter that concerns not your "means of livelihood but might perhaps say your very existence in this country. When you do read them I am sure you will see with me that it is indeed a misfortune that this publication especially as regards that of Sir B. Hunter has been so long delayed.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—This as you already know was carried through more or less on the lines of the Control Committee Scheme. Mr. Vincent supported that of the Mundakayam Association with great ability and was not without backing. Mr. Pinches put forward that of the Control Committee in very clear, studied and moderate terms. At the outset there appeared prospects of great difficulty in arriving at a unanimous decision—but after considerable discussion a good deal of it "outside the meeting" so to speak—a spirit of compromise gained the day and the matter was put in the hands of a small and well selected committee; and, with only a few slight additions and alterations, the result of their deliberations was passed eventually in open Meeting.

The proposal from our Association that there should be members-in-waiting on the Executive Committee was accepted, and they are to receive copies of *all* papers so as to be fully cognisant of what has and is going on whenever they may be needed to take their places as "Acting Member."

The proposal that the Planting Member should have no vote on the Executive Committee was rejected. I did not press it to a vote, but I may mention that it was not without support.

The rates of Subscription are to be Rs. 1/8 for Tea, Re. 1/4 for Rubber and Re. 1 for Coffee. They may be increased either collectively or separately by an amount not exceeding 2 as. per acre—after 3 months notice and when agreed to by a ¾ths majority of the General Council.

The General Council is to be composed of 2 representatives from each affiliated Association; it is to meet "at least twice a year"; the expenses of those attending it fall on the *District Associations*; (but I may point out it will be quite sufficient if *one* member attends.)

Firms directly interested in Planting concerns may become members on payment of Rs. 150 per annum, they will be elected by ballot of the General Committee. (Just as affiliated Associations are now) "Incorporation" of affiliated Associations. At the meeting the majority decided that this was desirable. I see however in the *Planters' Chronicle* that Mr. Abbott says it has been authoritatively decided that this procedure is *not necessary*. At the same time I think we should consider whether it is not

desirable for our Association. The liability of each member (*i.e.*, subscribing estate) can be fixed at a moderate rate say 50—100, and the initial cost I understand need not exceed Rs. 300 or thereabouts—and it would place the Association on a legal and much firmer standing as regards its constitution.

The Offices of the U. P. A. S. I. are at all events temporarily, to be at Coimbatore, this was decided on through financial restrictions. The general opinion was otherwise in favour of Madras.

The Executive Committee will fix the place of meeting for each and all meetings, the general idea appeared to be in favour of Bangalore for the General Annual Meeting—*as soon* as accommodation was again available.

Then the scheme passed is to take effect from 1st January 1919. It is possible that some reduction of our last quarter subscription on present rates to the Labour Department may be possible.

Some legal points regarding the scheme as passed for Re-organization have to be put before the Association's Solicitors—a small Committee consisting of Messrs Pinchers, Mackay and Lake have been elected to go into these with the Solicitors and I am sure you will agree with me in recognising the obligations we are under to these gentlemen for their public spirited-action in undertaking this onerous duty.

The only other matter I think need refer to is the unfortunate absence of your other elected Representative, Mr. Browne; I trust however that your interests in no way suffered thereby and feel assured that had he been present he would fully have supported my actions throughout. It is more from a personal point of view that I regret his absence. Neither the order of the agenda nor the time table was adhered to and this entailed on a single representative an unremitting, and distinctly arduous in that climate, if I may say so, attendance—day in and day out. This however I will unhesitatingly say if the results of the meeting are, as I believe they will be, to materialize in a far more practical and stronger U. P. A. S. I., I feel repaid and more than repaid for my attendance at a meeting which has such results.

I think I have now touched upon all points that are necessary to bring before you but if any of you wish to put any questions, I shall be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. Reed proposed and Mr. Foster seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Godfrey for so ably representing the association—passed with applause.

INCORPORATION OF THE N. M. P. A.—Carried forward.

Election of Office-Bearers.

Mr. C. Danvers	...	President.
Mr. R. G. Foster	...	Vice-President.
Mr. W. H. Reed	...	Honorary Secretary.

The Meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the President and Honorary Secretary.

(Signed) W. H. REED,
Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Cowcoody, Somwarpet,
N. Coorg, Sept., 27/18.

To

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Gompertz's letter gives one furiously to think. It is to be hoped that Mr. Abbott was mis-reported. Certain it is that there is a large amount of underhand anti-coffee propaganda throughout the world. Instances will suggest themselves to all who watch the signs. One useful purpose, among many others that a coffee cess would serve, would be to combat this. After all, why should a thirsty world be condemned to choose its poisons among alcohol, tannin, or acetic acid? A truce might be arranged on the basis of self-determination for all drinks and "no annexations"—of our markets by either Tea or Toddy. Coffee is—but if I should state the facts, you, Mr. Editor, would want to charge for this letter at advertisement rates.

Yours faithfully,
L. NEWCOME.

Sallebile, Kadur District,
28th September, 1918.

To

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Prices.

Dear Sir,—I have followed with the greatest interest the correspondence which has appeared in your columns and am glad to see Coffee Planters are beginning to take action with the object of securing a moderate price for the coming crop, which would enable them to live and maintain their Estates. It is suggested we should form a combine to secure the very modest minimum figure of Rs. 50 per cwt for parchment and Rs. 200 per candy for clean cherry coffee. Messrs. Hart, Foster and Danvers have dealt fully with the scheme, I will merely add that I have no doubt that with combination we shall secure the minimum figure, without combination we shall be at the mercy of the buyers as we were last year, we know what that means.

It is essential the Committee should know at the earliest possible date the amount of support on which it can rely. I appeal to all Coffee Planters to carry out the suggestions contained in Mr. P. G. Tipping's letter of the 8th instant and send in their name, approximate crop and state whether they are prepared to *undertake* to support the combine to secure Rs. 50 per cwt, for parchment and Rs. 200 per candy for clean cherry coffee.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. BROWNE.

Coffee Borer.

It will be remembered that last year adult coffee borer beetles did not begin to emerge until November. Normally, therefore, there should not be any emergency before November this year, as the beetles take a year to complete their life history. As a result, probably, of the very severe drought, however, the development of the borer has been considerably accelerated and adult beetles have already begun to emerge in the second week of September probably. The emergency will be general by the second week of October and unless about this time sufficient rains are received, there is ground for serious apprehension of extensive injury.

Planters are, therefore, advised to scrub their coffee on the lines recommended in the *Planters' Chronicle* Vol. XII 45, of 10/11/1917.

Arrangements should be made for scrubbing once in the third week of October and again in the first week of November. The younger trees should receive the most attention.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
No. 19824-70 T.C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From

Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller London, from Northern and Southern India,

Dated 21st September, 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—In continuation of my circular letter No. 19690/735 T. C. dated the 20th instant, regarding the recent fall in the rate of exchange for four months sight drafts, I have the honour to reproduce for your information the following letter dated the 21st instant which has been addressed to me by the President Calcutta Exchange Banks Association :—

"I beg to confirm my verbal communication to you that the Exchange Banks in Calcutta have agreed, on the distinct understanding that the concession is in no way to be considered a precedent, to permit merchants, who had contracts outstanding on the 30th August last for 4m/ date bills to be drawn on the Ministry of Food at the old rate of 1/6 7/16, to deliver the bills at the new rate of 1/6 13/32."

"I would here take the opportunity of pointing out that some Banks at first quite legitimately objected to grant the concession on the grounds that a contract is a contract and that had the rate been raised instead of reduced merchants would naturally have looked to the Banks to stand up to their obligations. I think it only right to call your attention to this in connection with the question of precedent and to explain that had the rate been reduced owing to a fall in the sterling value of the rupee Banks would most certainly have looked to merchants to carry out their contracts, for, as you are aware,

bills are sold to the Banks in combination with sales by them and as the merchants who bought would hold the Banks to their sale contracts Banks in their turn would hold merchants liable to theirs."

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 19871/80 T. C., dated the 21st September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
for Tea Commissioner for India.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India,
Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

No. 20034/80-T.C.

From
Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To
All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping
tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated 25th September 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir,—I have the honour to circulate for your information and guidance the following extract from Food Controller's cable No. 117, dated the 23rd instant :—

"In future drafts Civil tea must be drawn at three months sight instead "of four months date. Ministry of Shipping advise future shipments half "London half West Coast Recommend arrange Liners Conference maximum "loadings London to secure at least this minimum proportion. Divide "West Coast quantities small individual shipments where practicable with-"out losing tonnage."

(2). I request that in future all drafts on the Ministry of Food for Civil tea shipped to the Food Controller may be drawn at three months sight instead of four months date.

(3). Small individual shipments will, as desired by the Food Controller, be shipped in steamers loading for the West Coast of the United Kingdom.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 20082/97 T.C., dated 25th September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED,

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 41.] OCTOBER 12, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Coffee Combine Thermometer makes its first appearance to-day. The mercury shows a promise of 2,529 tons or 25% of the estimated coming crop. It is a good send off. We trust all coffee planters will come in and secure the adhesion of their neighbours.

Referring to our issue of 28th ultimo we are happy to report that Mr. T. Lakshman Rao, Assistant Chemist, has arrived and taken up his duties. Samples for analysis can now be sent in.

We publish the continuation of the article on the Improvement of Crops by Selection and Hybridisation by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

We publish the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association, and those of the Mundakayam Planters' Association.

So many Coffee planters are interested in the cultivation of Robusta Coffee that we reproduce an extract from leaflet No. 10 of the Department of Agriculture, Ceylon.

Short letters are published from Mr. Abbott, Mr. Mead, "J. A." and some telegraphic extracts kindly furnished by the Indian Tea Commissioner.

S. I. PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	83,177	10	3
Mr. Campbell Hunt	30	0	0
„ A. J. Wright, Munnar	20	0	0
„ A. H. Dixon (Tennis Winnings)	14	0	0
Mrs. Dixon (Tennis Winnings)	7	0	0
„ Lee (Tennis Winnings)	14	0	0
Mr. E. C. McCankie (Tennis Winnings ...	7	0	0
„ J. M. Bridgman (Tennis &c., Winnings) ...	14	0	0
Mrs. Bridgman (Tennis Winnings)	7	0	0
Mr. A. W. John (Tennis Winnings)	14	0	0
Mrs. Morgan (Tennis Winnings)	7	0	0
Mr. Stephen Bayly	30	0	0
Mr. C. H. Browne	300	0	0
TOTAL Rs. ...	83,641	10	3

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Improvement of Crops by Selection and Hybridisation.

(Continued.)

An Institute of Agricultural Botany is being established at Cambridge University, the primary function of which will be the breeding and distributing of improved varieties of agricultural crops. This Institute will be modelled on the famous Swedish plant breeding station. Pure cultures of new varieties will be produced on the field plot scale and these varieties will then be grown on a large scale and distributed.

In America a great deal of attention is paid to the improvement of agricultural crops by means of seed selection and hybridisation. The American Agricultural Department is the largest in the world and the value of science in agriculture is fully appreciated in that enlightened country. This may be seen from the fact that a sum of four million sterling is spent each year on the various operations of the Agricultural Department and from a list recently received it is noted that 4335 individuals are employed by the Department in agricultural work of one sort and another.

A typical example of how a crop is tackled, improved, and developed in America is that of Guayule Rubber in Mexico. This is *Parthenium argentatum* a small shrub about four feet high. This plant contains no latex but has granules of true rubber scattered through its tissues, especially in the bark. This is extracted by grinding and maceration and by a chemical process. An account of the improving of this crop is given in the *India Rubber World LVIII. 4*, as follows:—

"The first thing was the selection of a corps of chemists, botanists, plant physiologists, and experts in desert plants. For this they drew men from agricultural colleges, desert laboratories, and experiment stations, arranging to send their notes and conclusions to these seats of botanical learning, receiving from them knowledge in return.

These scientists took up the following subjects and exploited them most thoroughly. Geographical and altitudinal distribution, climate, air and soil temperatures, rainfall, soil moisture, and relative humidity, analysis of soils and of plants under all conditions, diseases, effects of drouth, rain and of irrigation; seeds, leaves, flowers, stems and roots were subjected to the closest scrutiny, under a multiplicity of conditions, and the results all tabulated.

In time their work begun in Mexico was transferred to the United States, notably to California and Arizona. Here were established laboratories and experimental plants, and the work on a commercial scale actually commenced.

Prior to the actual planting for commercial product, the plant was practically re-made to meet the necessities in the case.

The seed of the guayule is very minute, and if one examines the desert plant, very unsatisfactory. In the heads that should hold good seeds will be found half-developed dried husks of seeds and very few good ones. As vital seed, and plenty of it, is an essential, the guayule trainers took hold of the shrub, planted it under varying conditions, fed, watered, starved, and petted it until it was learned positively just what conditions were necessary to full seed pods. In time the barren seed vessels became full ones, and the treatment necessary to get this result became a matter of record.

It may not be generally known, but seeds of some plants, seeds that are vital, and that should germinate without difficulty, refuse to do so. This seems to be particularly true of certain desert growths. For example, there is a cactus distributed very generally through the southwest that bears seeds in abundance. So far, however, no one has been able to get these seeds to germinate. It was not on the cards that guayule should prove to be in this class. It promised so many other disabilities that it did not seem possible that it had this also. Nevertheless when the first bushel of seeds was carefully sown not one germinated. And so it was with succeeding lots. There was nothing to do but sow smaller lots under every condition that could be thought of, and learn just what was required. For a long time only failure resulted and gloom settled on the experimenters. Then an accident pointed the way and soon this problem, too, was solved.

The problem of speeding up the growth of the plant was one of the most interesting and vexing of all. Left to itself in its desert home under normal conditions, a guayule seedling takes some twenty years to arrive at maturity, that is, a rubber-bearing proposition. It grew a little at a favourable season each year. The rest of the time it existed, did not grow, nor do anything but sleep. Now, it is exceedingly difficult to get tree, shrub, or plants to do anything that they and their forbears have not previously done. They are hidebound in their prejudices, rock-ribbed as to their habits. They have no ambition to speed up, to be efficient, to be different. These plant prejudices must first be understood and habits broken by coaxing, cajoling, and fooling. For example, the guayule habit of a slight growth in the spring once a year was noted by the plant physiologist, who took advantage of it in this way. He furnished a stimulated spring and the guayule responded, then before it could settle back for months of rest, another spring was sprung. If done at the exact psychological moment the plant responds. Again and again was this done, and the plant, having no method of checking up its rapidly recurring seasons, attained a lusty growth in record time. By this method the fifteen-year development that the shrub was accustomed to, and that it prefers, was accomplished in four years. This, by the way, beats first crop *Hevea* by two years.

One of the very interesting preliminaries in guayule cultivation was the study of varieties. To the average guayule expert there were but two types of plants, the *Parthenium Argentatum*, which is the rubber producer, and the Mariola, *Parthenium Icanum*, which much resembles it but contains no rubber. From the beginning, the botanists began to segregate the rubber producing species into a great variety of types. The new species, the *Parthenium Lloydii*, named after Professor Francis E. Lloyd, is one of these varieties, characterized by differences in leaf, flower, root, growth, rubber content, etc., etc. Dr. McCallum, in whose desert laboratory the most of this work was done, published a statement in *Science* long ago that he had found 125 different species. He told the writer that his records showed to date more than 900 different guayule growths and that the list was still growing.

From the beginning of the experiments much care was taken in the analysis of thousands of shrubs to learn all that could be learned concerning the rubber content in them. First of all, the portions of the plants containing rubber were catalogued. This was important in determining whether it was wiser to uproot the plant for the sake of the rubber in the roots or to cut it off above the roots, leaving them to produce new growths. With cultivation in sight, however, there was much more to be learned than the portion of the plant richest in rubber. That was whether the ten per cent of

rubber, the rough estimate of the whole rubber content was at all variable. The results of the analyses were so astounding that they were done several times over. The facts tabulated showed that there was a wide difference in the amount of rubber in the different shrubs. This ran from one per cent., to ten per cent. to twenty per cent., and in rare cases to twenty-seven per cent. Manifestly seed from the one per cent. would not pay to collect, much less to plant. The poorer qualities were therefore thrown out and plants that were big producers were selected as seed bearers for the future cultivated shrub.

Guayule rubber has not been considered to be of the highest grade. When it first came upon the market its resin content was so high and it was so soft that it was accepted with reluctance. Indeed certain importers for years refused to allow that it was rubber at all and scornfully dubbed it a substitute. In time, however, by new methods of extraction, and by deresination, it came into its own as a valuable crude rubber and was used by the millions of pounds.

The searchers for guayule secrets, when they began to test the quality of the rubber in different plants, learned some more surprising truths. Some of the shrubs gave simply a black resinous paste that contained not enough rubber for extraction. Others contained rubber with say twenty per cent. resin, the type that the whole trade is familiar with. A few, however, yielded a firm hard product, low in resin and showing to a remarkable degree the 'nerve' that is so characteristic of the best crude rubber.

The result was, of course, that the best producers were planted as seed bearers for cultivated guayule.

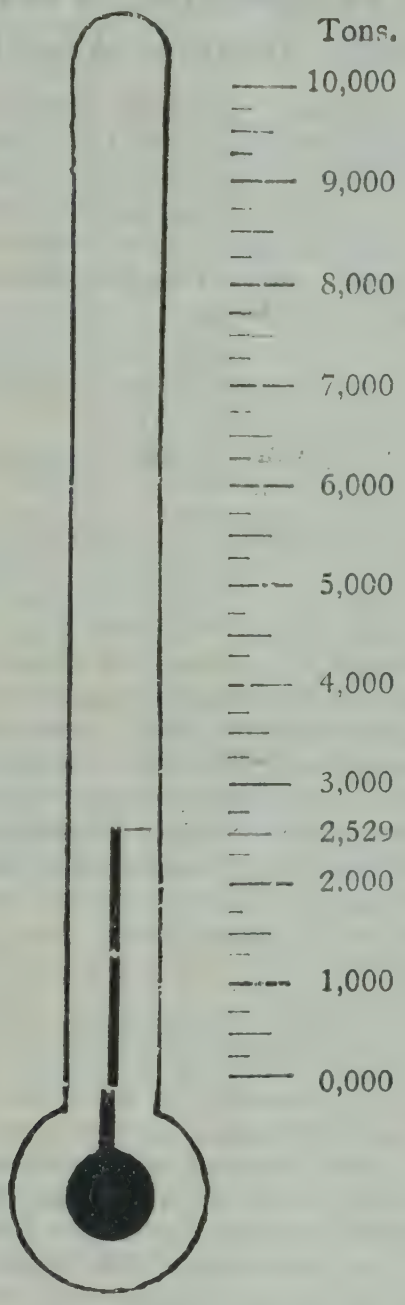
Nor was that all. By hybridisation, that is the wedding of the big producers with the best producers, plants were produced that had the good qualities of each. Therefore with a big, best producing seed stock the real cultivation of guayule was well on the way toward success.

In an age when almost everything is done by machinery, the growing of india rubber, particularly the tapping and gathering, is hand work entirely. Without vast gangs of coolies the production of rubber in any considerable amount seems impossible. With the cultivation and collection of guayule rubber, however, machinery takes the place of men, and in almost every part of the work. The preparation of the fields is done by disk harrows drawn by tractors. The planting by specially built machines, similar to tobacco planters that plow four furrows, set the plants at the proper intervals, cover them in and pack the earth about the roots. One machine plants eighteen acres a day. The cultivating is also done by machinery. For gathering there are two systems; one cutting the rows down by a harvesting machine, the other plowing the plant out root and all, as in the harvesting of the sugar beets. The extraction of the rubber is also, of course, wholly mechanical. In the event that the rubber is deresinated, that is also done by machinery and follows the well-known process.

Guayule growing in a large plantation involves a laboratory for examining and testing plant and product, a small greenhouse for seed experiment and hybridisation, outdoor plants for seed bearing, seed beds protected by lattice windbreaks, an irrigation system, planting and harvesting machinery, an extraction plant, and above all, knowledge of the plant, and how to handle it, and plenty of capital.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 50 per cwt. for Parchment and Rs. 40 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) amounts to date to.....tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Minutes of Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association held at the Club on the 19th September, 1918, at 11 a.m.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. E. Scott (Chairman), J. Hatton Robinson, J. D. Brewer, E. W. Simcock, J. H. Ireland-Jones; J. E. Sampson, D. Cooper and C. R. T. Congreve (*Honorary Secretary*), *By Proxy*—Mr. B. M. Behr.

CONFIRMED minutes of last meeting held on 20th May, 1918, also read and confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12th August, 1918.

DELEGATES TO U. P. A. S. I.—Mr. Congreve read their report as follows :—

"Gentlemen, at your request, we attended the 25th Annual General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. which opened in Madras on the 19th August, 1918. The meeting which was probably the most important ever held by our parent Association was opened by His Excellency Lord Pentland, the Governor of Madras, whose most interesting speech you will all have doubtless read. The procedure of conducting the meeting this year was changed, and instead of separate committees being appointed to go into the various subjects, everything came before the full meeting in committee, and after discussion, was brought up in open meeting. This method, though perhaps lengthening the meeting slightly, certainly added to its interest. As a full report of the proceedings has already appeared in the *Madras Mail*, we will not detain you by going into everything, but will just touch on a few of the most important matter which came up for discussion. Undoubtedly the most important, and the one of greatest interest to all Planters, was the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and the Labour Department. Naturally there was a great deal of discussion on this most important question, but finally the following resolution was adopted:— "That the Control Committee's Scheme for the re-organisation of the U P. A. S. I. be accepted in all its main principles, including the all-in subscription." A Committee composed of the following gentlemen was appointed to go into details:— Messrs. Pinches, Lake, Mead, Mackie, Richardson, and Congreve. The result of their deliberations we now place before you. You specially requested us to insist on sufficient funds being forthcoming to run the Labour Department properly, and we suggested an increased subscription, but as the general opinion was undoubtedly that if this was raised, a large acreage would go out, we waived the point. We were however satisfied that as far as circumstances would allow, the Labour Department would not be starved for want of funds, and would be efficiently run. You will all recognise the importance of everybody giving definite guarantees to join the Re-organised Association, and we trust everybody in this district will do so as soon as possible. Daily the necessity for unity is more clearly seen, and the time is coming, at no distant date when unless the Planting community are prepared to show a really united front, they are likely to go under. As a temporary measure the Headquarters of the U. P. A. S. I. are to be at Coimbatore, with the idea that at some future date they will be moved to a more important business centre. The result of holding the meeting this year in Madras, was that your delegates were impressed by the great advantage of holding meetings in business centres, where there is the opportunity of hearing business-men's opinions on different subjects, and

in time, we think there can be no doubt that the Headquarters will be changed to some such centre, though in our opinion the Headquarters of the Labour Department will always have to be in a central position for labour.

IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.—This subject was discussed thoroughly; Mr. Newby who attended the meeting explained his methods of working. Some may agree with them, but a considerable number we feel sure will not.

COFFEE.—Resolution Nos. 10, 11 and 12 were all important. The proposed Coffee cess is on our agenda and can be discussed. From letters in the *Chronicle* you will see that there is a movement to try and combine not to sell crops this season at too cheap a rate, and we consider that this scheme merits every coffee planter's support.

INDIAN DEFENCE FORCE.—Your delegates seconded the resolution on this subject, and trust that it will do good, and prevent in future, planting districts being denuded of Europeans to attend camps.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—This subject was not on the agenda, but by permission of the Chairman, Sir Bernard Hunter and Mr. Rae both spoke to the Meeting, and when their speeches appear in the book of proceedings, I trust they will be read by everybody with the attention they deserve.

Gentlemen, like the rest of you, I fancy we have not paid the attention to this most important Association that it deserves but after what we were told at the meeting, we cannot too strongly impress on every one of you the absolute necessity of supporting it to the very best of your ability. In these troublous times, the very existence of the planting community may depend on the exertions of the European Association, and we hope that anybody who is not already a member, will at once become one and support the appeal which has just been made for funds to the utmost of their ability."

(Signed) J. E. SCOTT.
(,,) C. R. T. CONGREVE.

Mr. Robinson proposed a vote of thanks to the delegates for attending the meeting and that their report be accepted and printed in the minutes of the meeting. This, on being seconded by Mr. Jones, was unanimously passed.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—The recommendations of the special committee elected at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting to consider the Control Committee's scheme were read. The following gentlemen were elected to act on the general committee:—Messrs. J. E. Scott and B. M. Behr.

MEDICAL.—The fact that no quinine was available either at the Local Fund Hospital or at the Post Office, was brought to the notice of the Meeting. The meeting requested the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary to wire to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Coimbatore, and the Hon'ble Sir E. F. Barber, urging that an adequate supply of this drug be sent up at once in view of the serious outbreak of Influenza in the district.

GRAIN AND CART RATES.—The Honorary Secretary placed a comparative table of rates of foodstuffs in various planting districts in South India on the table.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Simcock and seconded by Mr. Brewer, was passed unanimously:—

"That Estate Managers be requested not to sign new Bazaar "Agreements without first consulting the other members of the "Association as to rates etc."

EXPORT OF TEA.—Mr. Simcock spoke on the question of sending Tea by rail, pointing out that chests got seriously damaged in transit and that thefts of Tea had occurred. He suggested that, if the Tea Estates in the district kept a man at Podanur to supervise the transhipping of the chests, he felt sure a lot of damage and theft would be stopped. After some discussion, the Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the D. T. S. asking if such a man could be appointed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO A.P.A.—It was unanimously agreed that all acreage felled, whether planted or not, was liable for subscription to the Association.

UNION FOR DISTRICT.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the Collector asking for full particulars.

INCORPORATION.—It was decided to leave this matter over for the present.

LABOUR CONTRACTS.—Mr. Robinson's proposal that this question be left over till another meeting as it was of great importance, and owing to unforeseen circumstances very few members were present at this meeting was agreed to.

COFFEE CESS.—It was agreed to postpone this and other coffee questions for the same reason, and the Honorary Secretary was requested to call a Special meeting of all members interested in this product for the 30th September, 1918.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Jones and Cooper were appointed Auditors for the year, and they kindly consented to act.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting terminnted.

(Signed) J. E. SCOTT,
Chairman.

(Signed) C. R. T. CONGREVE,
Honorary Secretary.

Mundakayam Planters' Association.

Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association held at the Mundakayam Club, on Saturday, September 21st, 1918, at 2 p.m.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. R. Vincent (Chairman), T. W. H. Fitchett, R. W. B. Gompertz, R. Harley, R. G. Hutson, H. B. Kirk, N. D. Pollock, S. P. Peckover, A. Gordon Stewart and Edwin Vincent (Honorary Secretary) *By Proxy*—Ashton Hamond. *Visitors*—Mr. J. F. Fraser and Staff Sergeant Major V. Stevens.

(1). The following report of the Delegates, (Messrs. J. R. Vincent and Edwin Vincent) to the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. was read by the Honorary Secretary.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE U. P. A. S. I. HELD AT MADRAS ON THE 19TH AUGUST, 1918, AND THE FOLLOWING DAYS.—This Meeting, the twenty-fifth of its kind, is of greater importance than many of those preceeding it for the reason that during the past year the Planting Community has awakened to the necessity for the reconstitution of the parent Association if the latter is to keep pace with the times, and if it is adequately to represent the three main Planting industries in South India. The conclusions arrived at by the Meeting therefore deserve more than the usual consideration and we trust that when a full report of the Meeting has been published. The Mundakayam Planters' Association will allot a day for the discussion of the report and decide what line of action shall be taken with regard to the reforms, which are to be inaugurated, it is understood, at the beginning of next year,

This Meeting has been called to elect two Members of the General Committee of the U. P. A. S. I, for the year 1919. This Committee will in turn elect the Executive Council of the U. P. A. S. I, under the new scheme of re-organization to be adopted.

Had a full report of the Meeting been before us this would have been a good opportunity thus early to discuss the conclusions arrived at, but as the report is not yet to hand, we propose to bring the matter up for discussion at a future Meeting.

His Excellency the Governor of Madras this year honoured the Meeting, which he opened, and afterwards, in a felicitous speech which we trust you have all read, welcomed the delegates to Madras. Mr. Nicolls followed with his opening address after which the Secretary of the Association read his report for the past year. This was followed by the Planting Members résumé of his year's activities and the reports of the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the Director of the Labour Department, all of which you have no doubt read.

At the conclusion of Mr. Aylmer Martin's report the meeting went into Committee to discuss the schemes of the Control Committee and the Mundakayam Planters' Association for the Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I. You will have seen from the extensive reports in the papers that there was overwhelming support for the Control Committee's scheme which was eventually agreed to in its main principles, which as you are aware agreed generally with those of your own scheme. In order to facilitate the settlement of the question of cess, we proposed the election of a select Committee of three, viz. Messrs. Pinches, Lake and Mackie, to discuss and decide this point. The proposal was lost but was afterwards agreed to, when the Control Committee scheme had been accepted, with the addition of Messrs. Richardson, Congreve and Mead. This Committee of six met and drew up the following minute which was afterwards accepted in open meeting without any substantial alteration.

(This report was published in *the Planters' Chronicle* of 28th September, 1918.)

Your Delegates are indebted to the Delegates of the South Travancore Planters' Association for their support, and to Mr. Tipping who, although he spoke against your proposals, congratulated you on being the only Association to formulate a complete scheme for the Re-organization of the U. P. A. S. I.

The question of guarantee for the Rubber Mycologist was raised and your delegates' resolution accepted. We would refer you to the fourth paragraph of the selection Committee's report on this subject, and resolution No. 24 in the *Planters' Chronicle* of last week.

THE RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.—As instructed by you we brought forward proposals to the effect that (*a*) The Representative of Rubber on the Executive Council of the U. P. A. S. I. should be the Chairman of the local Rubber Growers' Association Committee for the year. (b) That all members of the R. G. A. in South India, and not only Associations be members of the local R. G. A. Committee.

These proposals were agreed to.

ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.—Your delegates supported the views of the Meeting which was unanimous regarding the Cochin Harbour scheme, Mr. E. L. Mahon had a resolution regarding the transport of produce in India and at your delegates' request this was altered to include the transport of cooly supplies and factory requisites.

LEGISLATION.—Your delegates voted for the nomination Mr. J. A. Richardson to the Legislative Council and he was unanimously elected.

SHIPPING FREIGHT AND TONNAGE.—Mr. P. G. Tipping had a resolution regarding the provision of tonnage for coffee at the time of or immediately after the close of their harvesting operations. Your delegates put forward the claims of Rubber and the resolution which is referred to later in this report on the subject of the R. G. A. proposals for the restriction of output was thought to be sufficient.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—After considerable discussion full information was given as to the payments made and a special grant was voted for the Imray Children.

PLANTERS' WAR FUND.—It is to be regretted that the Chairman completely misunderstood your attitude on this question. It was suggested that instead of Rs. 75,000 being sufficient for the fund, 7½ lakhs would be nearer the amount required. In a speech more sentimental than business-like the Chairman reproached the members of affiliated Associations for the falling off in subscriptions and instead of offering the details of the working of the fund asked for, called for further subscriptions. Under such reproaches as these; that the War Fund was started by a Member of the Mundakayam Planters' Association and that this Association above all others should support it, your delegate resented the speech of the Chairman as uncalled for pointing out that only information was asked for and that, should the necessity for further subscriptions be pointed out and agreed to, the Mundakayam Association would be, as in the past, foremost subscribers to the fund. We trust that a verbatim report of the discussion will appear in the Book of Proceedings so that members may judge of the necessity or otherwise for subscriptions.

INCORPORATION.—The Chairman asked your delegates to put off any resolution or discussion on the Incorporation of Associations, until the report of the select Committee was received on the Re-organization proposals. This was found to contain no reference to Incorporation and your delegates seized the opportunity to bring forward this point under the paragraph headed "Guarantees" in the Committee's report. This question along with other points raised was left to a Committee consisting of Mr. Mead, Mr. Lake and, we believe, Mr. Pinches, to go into with the Association's legal adviser and report.

THE SOUTH INDIA ASSOCIATION—This was brought up by several members and the general feeling of the meeting was that the U. P. A. S. I. know very little as to what had happened. The Meeting called for more information to be obtained by the Secretary.

STATISTICS.—The Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber spoke on this subject and at his request your delegates proposed a resolution that the Statistical Department should issue a report on the Rubber position on the lines of the Tea Report. A proposal was made from the chair, and agreed to, urging on affiliated Associations the necessity for preparing correct and complete returns for statistical purposes. These are already on record as far as this Association is concerned.

There is not much left to report. We can at least congratulate ourselves on obtaining what it has taken us two years of agitation and work to obtain, and that is a Rubber Mycologist. Not only are we to have as soon as possible an Officer recruited for this position but it has also been unanimously agreed that his headquarters and laboratory are to be in Mundakayam. This result is worth all our worry and work, and we sincerely hope that benefit will accrue not only to the few Estates in Mundakayam but to the whole of the Rubber Industry in South India, which, Gentlemen, is what we have all along been working for.

The Rubber Growers' Association's proposals for the restriction of output were discussed and the Chairman's action confirmed.

It is unfortunate that he did not give us an opportunity of discussing and recommending to Government, the question of financing the Rubber Industry, and the purchase of our Rubber by Government.

The Chairman assured us, however, and so did Sir Fairless Barber that these questions would not be lost sight of. At our request the Chairman inserted in his closing speech the words " In touching on the question of the R. G. A. proposals regarding the restriction of the output of Rubber, I would strongly urge that these would be more effective if they could include the British owned estates in Java and Sumatra so that they too are restricted and rationed."

As you are aware Mr. Nicolls was elected Chairman for the third successive year and one of your nominees Mr. A. H. Mead, was elected Vice-Chairman together with Mr. C. Lake.

We have not repeated verbatim the resolutions adopted as these have already appeared in the *Planters' Chronicle*.

Mr. E. Vincent's action in voting in favour of the resolution legalizing the holding of the meeting at Madras, was confirmed.

Mr. N. D. Pollock moved the adoption of the report coupled with a vote of thanks to the delegates. This was seconded by Mr. Harley and carried.

(2.) Election of two members to the General Committee of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Honorary Secretary having explained the position, Messrs. J. R. Vincent and T. W. H. Fitchett, were elected, on the proposal of Mr. Kirk seconded by Mr. E. Vincent.

In answer to Mr. Gompertz, the Chairman said he would welcome discussion on the report but pointed out that questions could better be answered when the Book of Proceedings have been received, as this would contain a fuller report than was available from the press. It was therefore decided to allot a day for the discussion ; when instructions would also be given to the members of the Committee.

The Honorary Secretary read correspondence relating to Rubber matters and finance. It was decided to ascertain at an early date what the output and financial requirements of the district would be.

THE MUNDAKAYAM SCHOOL—This was brought up by the Honorary Secretary, who was instructed to invite subscriptions either personal or on an acreage basis.

The Honorary Secretary read a letter from Mr. Howson intimating the withdrawal of his Estate from the Association. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Howson explaining the position regarding the appointment of a Mycologist and asking him under the circumstances to withdraw his resignation.

The R. G. A. meeting at Calicut on October 2nd was next discussed and as Mr. H. M. E. Howson was unable to attend, Mr. J. R. Vincent kindly consented to go in his place.

The Meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) J. R. VINCENT,
Chairman.

(Signed) EDWIN VINCENT,
Honorary Secretary.

COFFEE.

Cultivation of the Robusta Types of Coffee.

The following is an extract from Leaflet No. 10 of the Department of Agriculture, Ceylon :—

These notes have been written with the object of meeting the demand there, is at the present time for practical information regarding the cultivation of the robusta types of coffee that have been under experiment for the past few years. Robusta coffee is a native of the Congo, and is now grown to a large extent in Java, while the Canephora type is rapidly extending in Madagascar.

VARIETIES.—The following varieties of the robusta type are at present under cultivation at the Experiment Stations at Peradeniya and Anuradhapura : Robusta, Canephora, Uganda, and a Hybrid raised from seed obtained from Messrs. Leobenf Bros., Paris. Seedlings raised from named Java strains have also recently been raised and will shortly be planted out. Robusta coffee has also given good crops at the Balangoda Demonstration Garden of the Agricultural Society , and is being planted at the Kegalla Demonstration Garden. *Coffea robusta* prefers damp localities, and does not like wind. It should be shaded and protected from wind. C. *canephora* prefers higher altitudes than C. *robusta* and appears to be able to withstand drought better. C. *uganda* is recommended in Java for the poorer soils and for old worn-out land.

SOIL.—Coffee prefers a deep soil. The best soil is a well-drained loamy one, but the plant is hardy, and will grow in any ordinary good soil, which is reasonably rich in humus. Heavy clays are generally unsuitable, and the proportion of clay must, in no case, be such as to prevent satisfactory drainage.

CLIMATE.—The most suitable climate in Ceylon for robusta coffee is between elevations varying from 1,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level. Experiments in Colombo and at Anuradhapura, however, show that coffee may be grown at low elevations. Coffee is capable of resisting drought to a certain extent, but it prefers an abundant and regular rainfall. An extremely hot climate is not favourable to the coffee plant, and it does not thrive in situations exposed to the wind.

SEED BEDS OR NURSERIES.—The site chosen for the seed bed should be on a slight incline so as to afford natural drainage. It should occupy a sheltered position, and the soil should be good. This soil shoutd be worked until a fine tilth is secured. The seed beds must not be too wide, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet is sufficient. All roots, stones, etc., should be carefully removed, and in most cases an application of well decomposed cattle manure is beneficial. Ripe seed from healthy bearing trees should be selected for planting. In order to estimate the necessary quantity of plants required, it is useful to know that a pound of robusta coffee contains approximately 360 berries, or, say, 600 seeds. Making an allowance of 10 per cent. for failures. 540 seedlings should be raised from one pound of coffee berries. These should be sufficient to plant out $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres at a distance of 10 feet by 10 feet.

A pound of the Hybrid coffee contains approximately 395 berries, or, say, 650 seeds, equal to 585 seedlings per pound of coffee, sufficient to plant out $1\frac{1}{3}$ acres at a distance of 10 feet by 10 feet.

To prepare seeds for sowing the pulp should be removed and the seeds rubbed in ashes. They should then be placed in the ground—flat side downwards—6 inches apart at a depth of about half an inch below the surface. The finger, or a small stick, may be used for this purpose. Seed sown 6 inches apart enables the plants to be kept in the nurseries for longer periods.

The seed beds after sowing should be covered with half an inch of pure sand. They must be kept free from weeds, and be watered every other day in dry weather. An excessive degree of moisure must be avoided. The seeds will germinate in about four to six weeks, and the seedlings will be ready to transplant in from six to nine months from date of sowing of seed.

Robusta coffee can be transplanted at almost any age. Stumps from an overgrown nursery at the Experiment Station were ruthlessly pulled up and planted in 1913. Every single plant grew and made healthy vigorous plants.

BASKET PLANTS.—When it is not intended to plant coffee on a large scale, plants may be raised in supply baskets or bamboo pots. This method not only facilitates transport, but also enables the plants, with their roots intact, to be planted out in almost any weather with comparative safety. It is well worth the extra cost involved.

In preparing bamboo pots see that there is a good drainage hole at the base. Fill the pot one-third full of (1) small pieces of broken brick or tile; (2) coarse gravel; (3) a layer of coconut fibre to prevent the soil clogging the drainage.

The remaining two-thirds of the pot should be filled with a mixture of well-composed cattle manure, leaf mould, alluvial or loamy soil with an inch of fine sand on top. The pots or baskets should at first be kept in a shady and damp place. Afterwards they may be placed in more exposed situations to harden the plants.

The same procedure may be used for supply baskets, except that the broken brick or tile is not necessary. Supply baskets are procurable from any basket merchant at from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per 1,000.

PREPARATION OF THE LAND.—Forest land rich in humus is best suited for a new plantation, inasmuch as the land will not require manuring for some time. After felling and burning the jungle, the land should be thoroughly cleared of stumps, roots, and other obstructions, a stump extractor being used for this purpose. If the land be steep, contour drains should be dug; and if stones are available, a system of short contour walls with openings at proper intervals for drainage purposes should be laid out. Hedges of such plants as *Tephrosia candida* or *Leucaena glauca* planted above these contour wall, will be useful, as they assist in intercepting the soil that is washed down and in helping to form satisfactory terraces.

LINING.—After the land has been cleared it should be lined, short pegs being laced at each place that is to be occupied by a plant. To facilitate work pa base line should first be made. There are different methods of lining. An easy method is to get a number of half-inch ropes and to stretch them over the land at the required distances apart. A similar rope held by a cooly at either end is then stretched across all the other ropes at right angles, if planting is to be done 'on the square,' and at 45 degrees if the quincunx method is being adopted. Where this superimposed rope touches the others, pegs are put in and the operation is repeated at the distance at which it is desired to plant. Manilla rope is better than jute or coir for this purpose, as it stretches but little.

HOLING AND FILLING HOLES.—Around each peg is drawn acircle of the size required for the holes. Holes should be at least 1 foot wide and 1½ feet deep. It is preferable for them to be dug about a month before planting and left exposed Before planting, fill the holes with good surface soil and press down, gently while filling. Never fill a hole to the top and then press down. The lower soil later on sinks and a vacant space is left, which endangers the life of the plant. In average soils an average task for a man is 100 holes, but in hard, gravelly, or clayey soil 60-75 holes is a fair average for a day's work.

PLANTING DISTANCES. The distances at which robusta coffee should be grown, will vary according to the position and texture of the land. The most common distance of planting is 6 by 6 feet, but observations of well developed trees at the Experiment Station show that 8 by 8 feet or even 10 by 10 feet are to be advocated. On poor soil, and also on steep hillsides, smaller distances may be adopted.

As a catch crop among the rubber, coffee should be planted between the rows of rubber trees at 8 feet apart, and should be at least 6 feet from the rubber rows.

Interplanted among cocoanuts, which are 30 by 30 feet, coffee may be 7 feet apart and 8 feet from the coconut plants.

PLANTING OUT.—Rainy weather, either at the commencement of the north-east or of the south-west monsoon, is the best for planting. An opening should be made with an alavangu or stick in the centre of the hole sufficiently deep and broad to admit the roots of the plant. The plant should be placed into the hole thus made with its roots straight down, and care should be taken to see that the nursery level of the plant is maintained. The tap root should not be allowed to become bent, twisted, or broken. The lateral roots should be spread out as much as possible if they have not been cut off Some planters prefer to cut off these lateral roots, while others prefer to leave them and plant them out as far as possible in their nursery conditions. Work the soil around the plant and press it around the stem so firmly that the plant cannot be moved by a gentle pull.

When plants are raised in bamboos, each bamboo pot is split by a sharp blow on either side with a pruning knife. Lift off the halves of the bamboo to separate them from the soil surrounding the plant. Then place the plant, soil, and split bamboo into the hole made. Remove the two halves of the bamboo and press the soil firmly around the plant.

After planting, mulch around the plants with any green material near at hand for about three or four months.

SHADE.—In Ceylon in former years coffee was cultivated without any shade, but in Java, South India, etc., the custom now is to shade it to some extent. Coffee grown under light shade renders it less liable the leaf disease. The experimental plantations at Peradeniya have illustrated in a striking manner the value of light shade for coffee, and it is considered that the robusta types of coffee can be profitably grown over large are as in Ceylon if sufficient attention is paid to the question of shade. The shade trees employed at Peradeniya are *Leucaena glauca*, *Erythrina lithosperma* (Dadap), and *Gliricidia maculata*. All these are leguminous, and can be confidently recommended. *Leucaena glauca* is considered to be the most suitable of the three.

Leucaena glauca is a shade tree much employed in Java. It possesses advantages of rapid growth and not too dense foliage. It is hardy, does not grow too large, and withstands wind. It is best planted by seed, two or three seeds after treatment being sown 8 to 10 feet apart in rows preferably six months before the coffee. Cuttings do not thrive. There are 6,330 fresh seeds or 9,850 sun-dried seeds to the pound. The seed should be covered with boiling water and allowed to soak for 12 hours before sowing, the water being allowed to cool.

The seedlings should be thinned to one plant at each hole as they increase in height, side branches should be lopped, and the tops cut across twice a year, the green material being mulched round the coffee trees in gradually-increasing rings.

Erythrina lithosperma (*Rata-erabadu*).—Thornless Dadap: This grows well in Ceylon, and is much used upon tea estates. It has been

proved to be of great value as a source of organic matter. It can be raised from seed, stumps, or cuttings, and except at high elevations, rapidiy makes a strong tree. Stumps or cuttings should be 6 feet to 8 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, and should be planted in prepared holes. The stumps should be placed at least 16 inches deep in the ground, and as soon after cutting as possible. Stumps taken straight from the trees and planted invariably gives the best results. When the plants grow, they should be topped at 10 to 15 feet, and then lopped as often as necessary, usually once in two months. The leafy branches should be mulched around the coffee plants, leaving a clear space of 1 foot around the plants.

GLIRICIDIA MACULATA.—This tree does well from sea level to 2,500 feet, and is well suited for districts that have several months of dry weather. It is raised from seed, but as a result of experiment it has been found that the plant may be propagated readily from cuttings. By setting out cuttings 8 to 10 feet in length and about 2 inches in diameter 6 to 8 feet apart a suitable amount of shade for a yonng coffee plantation can soon be established. The tree needs topping to make it spread properly, and material is thus obtained which is useful for mulching round the coffee plants.

TOPPING, PRUNING, AND CARE OF A YOUNG PLANTATION. *Topping.*—Between the second and third year the coffee bushes should have reached a height of about 5 to 6 feet. They should at this stage be topped. This operation consists in cutting off the top of the tree to a height of 4 to 5 feet. This is done to prevent the tree from attaining a great height and thereby facilitating picking. Topping also increases the spread and the fruitfulness of the lower branches. Only hard brown wood should be cut in topping. If green wood is cut the top will die back, and several suckers will be produced.

Pruning.—Proper pruning of coffee trees is very important, and all suckers must be removed. A well formed coffee tree should have a straight central stem, from which side branches called 'primaries' are given off. These primaries give off other side branches called 'secondaries' which may also branch again. The primary branches should be left, but all the secondaries should be removed to a distance of 6 inches from the main stem, so as to allow a clear space round the stem for the free circulation of air and for the entry of light. On the primary branches at each node the secondary branches are usually given off in pairs, one on each side of the branch. Take off one branch at each node alternatively, so that at one node a branch is left projecting to the left and at the other to the right, and so on. Always cut off one of the top pairs of primaries, so as to prevent any splitting of the stem, on the side most exposed to the wind; but no other primaries should be cut back, except in the case of disease.

SUCKERING.—Suckers are the erect shoots that spring out along the stems. When the plants are about a year old, the weeders or a small party of searchers should go over the fields monthly to break off suckers and any extra or unnecessary shoots that point towards the stem or across the tree. If the suckers are tough, *i.e.*, have brown wood, it would be best to remove them with a sharp knife quite close up to the main stem, and flush with it, otherwise they would grow again.

CARE OF A YOUNG PLANTATION.—Coffee should be kept absolutely clean weeded; round the plant hand weeding is best. A good digging or forking of the ground in the second year is beneficial.

MANURING.—At least once a year the soil round the trees should, be supplied with manure, leaf-mould or compost. This should not he heaped up

close around the trees, but spread in a thin layer at some distance from them and then well forked in. Care must betaken not to disturb the roots of the plant. The pulp of the berries after decay makes an excellent manure. Cattle manure and leaves are good; mana grass both buried and mulched on the surface has been found very good. Mulching with loppings from decayed trees also result in increased crops. Applications of lime are to be recommended, and a useful mixture may be made up of the following:—

5	oz.	bones	Applied to each tree.
8	oz.	poonac	
8	oz.	jungle or ravine soil or well-decomposed cattle manure	

Night soil mixed with earth has also been found to be effective.

CATCH CROPS.—While the trees are young, and before they begin to bear, catch crops of cassava, sweet potato, dhall, chillie, &c., may be grown between the coffee plants. They should not be planted too near the coffee, and if heavy crops are reaped, it is advisable to make subsequent applications of manure.

TIME OF BEARING.—Plants about twelve months old begin to show flowers buds or "*spikes*." These early flowers rarely develop into berries but a small crop may be collected at 18 to 24 months after planting. From, thence onwards the trees continues to bear for many years, if kept pruned and carefully attended to. The plant flowers during the whole of the year. Ripe berries remain on the branches for about a month, so that a monthly picking is necessary.

YIELDS.—The yields of coffee vary according to soil, climate and cultivation, but they average from 4 to 12 cwt. to the acre. A pound per tree on an average would be a very good return. but in favourable situations and under proper cultivation some trees will yield much more.

The hybrid coffee appears to be more prolific at the Peradeniya Experiment Station than the robusta. Trees of the Hybrid coffee planted 8 by 8 feet in 1903 with *Leucaena glauca* as shade have given the following yields:—

Year.	Pounds of Berries. per acre.	Year.	Pounds of Berries. per acre.
1914	2,919	1916	2,410*
1915	3,432	1917	2,495

* Two-thirds of the bushes were coppiced in 1915.

The berries of the Hybrid coffee are small, and it takes an average of 5 lb. of fresh berries to give 1 lb. of dry coffee.

Robusta coffee of the same age is not available on the Experiment Station for comparison of yields, but a small plantation of this variety made in 1910 yielded in 1917 at the rate of 996 lb. of berries per acre, convertible into dry coffee at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of berries for 1 lb. of dry coffee.

PREPARATION.—The berries of robusta coffees are small. When the crop is picked, it has to be pulped to remove the outer coats of the fruits, and then the berries have to be washed. Fermentation for 12 to 24 hours after pulping is recommended for them; after washing an even-coloured coffee is obtained. Drying should be carried out as rapidly as possible at a high temperature, the berries being turned frequently during drying. If a high grade quality is desired, kiln-drying is essential, and this method of drying has been almost universally adopted throughout Java. Withkiln-dried coffees the silver skin separates more readily, and this grade commands relatively higher prices than the naturally dried product. Well-drled robusta coffee has a regular bluish colour,

CORRESPONDENCE.

Meppadi,
October 1st, 1918.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Combine.

Dear Sir,—A friend has asked me if I intend to reply to Mr. Gompertz's italicised denunciation in the *Chronicle* of September 21st. I hardly think it necessary to do so. If it is, I may perhaps be allowed to quote Max Beerbohm's remark about his Brother's performance of Hamlet, and say that I think Mr. Gompertz is funny without being vulgar.

Yours faithfully,
C. E. ABBOTT.

White Lodge,
Coonoor,
October 10th, 1918.

To

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Transmission of Silver by Post.

Sir,—I will be obliged if you will publish the enclosed communication from the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Calcutta, to the Post-Master General, Madras, for the information of the Planting community.

" I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have decided that the Planters in Southern India may be allowed a relaxation of the prohibition on the transmission of coins by post. I am accordingly to request that you will, in consultation with the Accountant General, Madras, grant the concession to such Planters as may require it and issue instructions to the post offices concerned to accept and deliver the insured parcels containing coins."

Information as to the amount required monthly by estates, has been called for by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Travancore and Cochin circle, and I trust the same has been done in other circles, in which case this subject may be considered to be definitely disposed of.

I am yours etc.,
A. H. MEAD.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Coffee Combine.

Sir,—A satisfactory answer to the following through your columns will be deemed a favour:—

If the coffee campaign is a success will the Payne be still or if a failure will there still be pain? In the event of the latter being the case the remedy is obvious; "put it on the planter"

Yours faithfully,

J. A.

Tea.

Extract from telegram dated 30th September 1918 from the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta, to the Food Controller, London.

"439 Your 117. Tea Association and President Exchange Banks regard provision of seven days period with effect from Customs date clearance as absolutely essential with reference to local trade conditions, and consider confusion not likely to arise, so strongly urge acceptance of my proposal. Tea Association accept under protest two months period after clearing date for negotiation of drafts. Latter now being drawn at three months sight. No unallotted stocks Calcutta, and only small stock Chittagong so obliged to fill all steamers in rotation of loading dates as teas arrive and cannot therefore withhold small shipments for West Coast steamers until shippers accumulate stocks.

"TEACOM" (Tea Commissioner for India).

Memo No. 20277/86 T. C., dated the 30th September, 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore, in continuation of this office memo No. 20082/97 T. C., dated 25th instant.

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Extract from telegram dated 3rd October 1918 from the Food Controller, London, to the Tea Commissioner for India, Calcutta.

"Number 120 your 439 London Association prefers as exchange of day date of bill of lading to date of Customs clearance and has come to complete agreement on that basis we bearing risk of exchange from date of bill of lading up to end of two calendar months from Customs clearance. London Association has cabled Calcutta Association accordingly. Presume Calcutta Association will agree London settlement.

Memo No. 20511/27 T. C., dated 5th October 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secy., United Planters' Association of Southern India in continuation of this office memo No. 20277/86 T. C., dated 30th ultimo.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Coffee Combine Thermometer has risen to 3,003 tons.

The Scientific Department continues its article on the improvement of Crops by selection and hybridisation.

Mr. J. B. Leslie-Rogers contributes an appreciation of the late Captain Leslie Alexander Gerrard Rogers which will be read with real sympathy by his many friends.

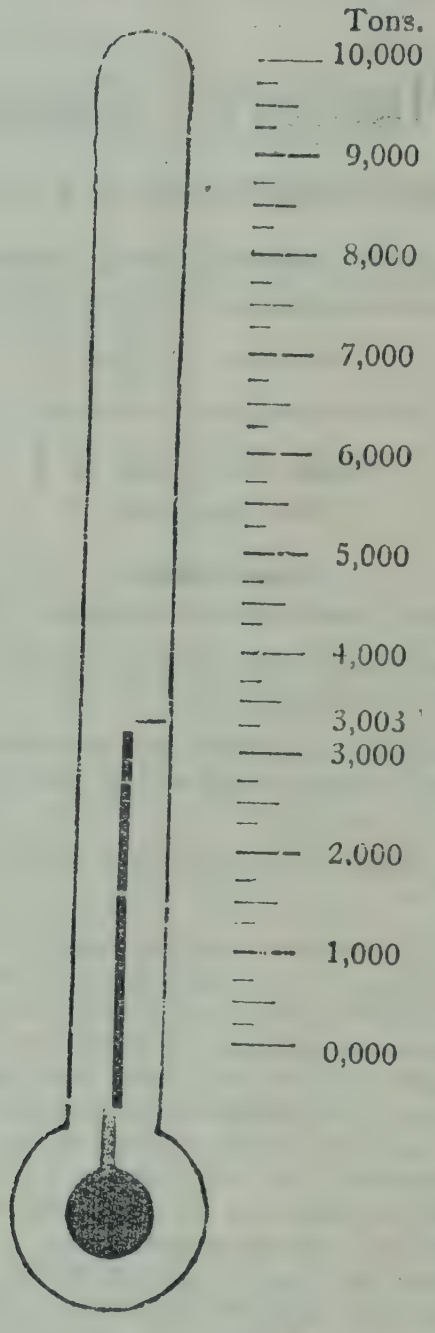
We publish the minutes of a Quarterly General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association.

A report of a Coffee Planters' Meeting which was held in Bangalore on the 7th instant is published. Much interesting information was elicited, but unfortunately an error has crept in as regards the amount of damaged coffee lying in Bombay, for at the moment of going to press a letter has been received by the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. from the Liaison Officer, Bombay, in reply to his enquiry: "The balance now remaining in Bombay consists of 1,345 bags which have been badly damaged by sea water, and are also badly mildewed. Reference has been made on three occasions to the Director of Commerce and Industry, Simla, and instructions are still awaited as to what is to be done with the damaged coffee." Messrs. Stanes & Co., have kindly placed the services of Mr. Holland at the disposal of the U. P. A. S. I. to survey and report on this coffee.

We publish the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the South Indian Rice Conference in Calicut, followed by a letter from Mr. Knapp to Sir Fairless Barber.

The Speech and resolution moved by Mr. Mead at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. were forwarded to the Government from whom the Secretary has received the following reply: "In continuation of letter No. 2636-1, dated the 25th September 1918, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Governor has discussed the subject with the General Officer Commanding, 9th (Secunderabad) Division, who has agreed to make the fullest allowance for the exceptional conditions which planters in outlying stations have to face. I am accordingly to advise you to arrange that applications shall be submitted to the General Officer Commanding, for as much exemption as is needed in view of the circumstances of individual cases."

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 50 per cwt. for Parchment and Rs. 40 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) amounts to date to.....tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Improvement of Crops by Selection and Hybridisation.

(Continued.)

The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. R. E. Prothero,) in the House of Commons on July 18th, reviewed the operations of his department during the past twelve months. After alluding to the work of Professor Russell at Rothamsted, in connection with the turning of grass land into arable, and the production of an effective soil insecticide, and of Professor Wood and Hopkins at Cambridge, on animal nutrition, he illustrated the possibilities of scientific research in agriculture from Professor Biffen's well-known plant-breeding investigations. He pointed out that, after examining a number of varieties of foreign wheat, Professor Biffen discovered a Russian wheat called ghirka, which resists rust. Now rust destroys annually thousands of quarters of wheat, but this ghirka wheat was of no use to the British farmer because its yield was miserably low. But Professor Biffen, by using the Mendel system, was able to transfer the rust resisting quality of ghirka to a high-yielding English wheat, and though that wheat has now been in use for several years, it has shown no tendency whatever to revert either to the rust tendency of one parent or the low-yielding tendency of the other. He has now produced a wheat which produces a high quality of straw—a fine, stiff, upstanding straw and a high quality of yield of grain, so much so that without pushing it will produce forty-two bushels to the acre, and by pushing up to seventy-two bushels to the acre. It also possesses a very high quality of disease resistance, which is so highly valued by both millers and bakers, and which is recognised in increased prices.

Mr. Prothero added: "Hitherto the plant-breeding work has been hardly applied to any of the crops of the farmer except wheat—though it has been applied partly to barley—and mainly to wheat suited to the Eastern Counties. But suppose you apply it to the wheat and barley used in other districts, to oats and rye, to temporary grass and potatoes. There is an extraordinary list of possibilities opened to the British farmer. If, for instance, you could produce a potato which was immune from blight and immune from wart disease, it would be an invaluable boon to English agriculturists, and there is every prospect that that may be achieved."

The following is an extract from a leading article on the subject of progress in plant breeding which appeared in the *Agricultural News*, *Vol. XVII No.* 422:—

The fact that plants, like animals, are capable of being improved by careful breeding, has only been thoroughly recognized during the last century. Only a few scientific horticulturists at the beginning of the nineteenth century had begun to realize the importance of this process in agricultural matters. During the century, chiefly owing to the promulgation in the latter part of it of Mendel's researches, the knowledge of the factors involved in plant breeding has gradually increased, and been widely disseminated. Recent developments in this direction have forcibly called attention to the great improvements which skill and patience under scientific control may achieve in this field, and it may be said that interest in plant breeding has been stimulated enormously in the last few years.

In the last century, it seems that the systematic breeding of plants may be said to have begun with the work of Knight and Van Mons about the beginning of the century. Thomas Andrew Knight, an eminent English plant physiologist, may be called the father of plant breeding, since he was the first to show, in 1806, the practical value of hybridization in the production of plant varieties. Of almost equal importance, however, was the work of a contemporaneous Belgian horticulturist, Jean Baptiste Van Mons, who emphasized mainly the principle of selection. It will thus be seen that the fundamental laws of plant breeding were fairly well understood at the beginning of the century, and had been published in horticultural text-books and papers. It requires long years, however, for scientific principles to become thoroughly

recognized and widely disseminated. This result, as was noticed before, has largely been due to the universal acceptance of the laws of heredity expounded by Mendel, as a result of his classical experiments on the common pea.

During the first fifty years of the century almost the sole method of breeding, both in Europe and America, was to select seeds from the best type of plants, and to raise numerous seedlings, of which those were selected for further propagation which seemed to be of better quality than the parent. For instance, when a particularly good fruit was produced, its seeds were carefully preserved and planted, and some varieties in the main true to type were reproduced, but only a few superior or new varieties resulted. Hybridisation and cross-fertilisation in improving plants were very little utilized until during the last half of the century.

Since the middle of the century additions to the knowledge of the laws of inheritance have caused a great advance in methods of improving plants. One important factor in the application of hybridisation to producing improved strains is the securing of what have been termed 'dilute hybrids,' that is hybrids containing more constituents of one of the parent varieties than of the other. If in any hybrid the characters of one of the parents are found to be too pronounced to give a successful combination, that hybrid may be crossed back with the other parent, and the process repeated until the desired combination is obtained.

The prime importance of growing hybrids through several generations in order to fix the characteristics aimed at has only been recently recognized as a necessary deduction from Mendelian laws.

The production of varieties which have been obtained by careful methods of selection carried through from one to many generations has always had a marked effect on the development of certain agricultural industries, notably that of cotton. Scientific hybridization has also had a very marked effect in the development of many cultivated plants, and in the future there is no doubt that it will be more and more extensively utilized in securing and perpetuating desired modifications in probably every crop economically valuable.

A striking instance of the wonderful amelioration than can be accomplished by careful breeding in a plant is the tomato. According to an article in the *Year Book* of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1809, in the early part of the century the races of tomatoes produced mostly small and lobed fruits. Dr. Hand, of Maryland, began his work in connection with it in 1850. He crossed the smooth tomato, which was filled with juice and seeds with the compound convoluted tomato generally cultivated at that time. By selection and further hybridization he produced a race of large, smooth, round tomatoes with solid contents, and the improvement of this fruit has been continuing ever since.

Another striking instance of the improvement in a plant by selection and hybridization is the maize, very many of the best races of which have originated as carefully produced hybrids, and have been improved and fixed as to characteristics by further long-continued selection.

The selection that is regularly practised by all intelligent growers, and which to-day may be regarded as one of the necessary cultural methods in the production of cotton, especially Sea Island cotton, has resulted in the increase of length and fineness of fibre, until in places where such selection is rigidly employed, the cotton has reached a very high standard in respect of the characters regarded as most desirable.

Probably in no plants, however, has hybridization given such marked results as in those cultivated for their flowers. This is due largely to the fact that in such plants variations of form and colour are the greatest desiderata, and such modifications are found to be easily obtained by hybridising different coloured species or varieties.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

CAPT LESLIE ALEXANDER GERRARD ROGERS.

An Appreciation.

All will mourn the sudden and melancholy loss of one of our best men in the Nilgiris, a keen and practical planter, and a zealous and popular Commanding Officer of the I. D. F, always doing more than his mere duty in both his adopted professions A *Sahib* in the true sense of the word, with no enemies and many friends wherever he was known. A typical planter, good sportsman, able soldier, cheery and hospitable, welcome everywhere, Gerrard Rogers, as he was best known, will be much missed and hard to replace. Intolerant of all shams and insincerity, yet never wounding any feelings, his incisive opinions on planting questions were always worth serious consideration. Had his virile life been spared he would certainly have ultimately made his mark as a sound and reliable leader of the planting community.

My first acquaintance with him was one of those rare coincidences that are heard of but seldom met with. Some five years ago I, as a visitor, attended a Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association, and casually asked my righthand neighbour the name of the man on my left. He replied "Leslie Rogers"! I said "Not mine, I mean the next chap's," and again to my astonishment the same names were repeated. I turned round and introduced myself as a namesake, and found myself in cheery conversation with a man I had never met before, who was no relation nor even distant connection, yet had the same names, same profession, and same idiosyncrasies! He was a planter, so was I, and he was a Volunteer Officer like myself. Further acquaintance showed we also held similar views on most professional and public questions. He was then the Honorary Secretary of the N. P. A.; but little later he resigned to devote more time to his military duties, and to my surprise I was elected to take up the work he had so successfully carried out for the Association. If I have given satisfaction as his successor it is largely due to his wise words of counsel and advice when giving up the work in which he was so keenly interested.

Well, he has passed away suddenly in the midst of a promising career: missed and mourned by all his brother planters. As he lived, so he died, doing his duty, and more. After attending an I.D.F. parade, he went down to Adderley Estate and contracted influenza, and though seriously indisposed himself, he continued treating his numerous coolies similarly affected, and this led to a severe attack of pneumonia which ended fatally at 11 a.m., on Thursday the 10th October.

Good fellow, sound planter, keen soldier, *au revoir*, we shall meet again. *Requiescat in pace.*

J. B. LESLIE-ROGERS.

Ootacamund,
13th October, 1918.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Nilgiri Planters' Association.

A Quarterly General Meeting of the above Association was held at the Collector's Office, Ootacamund, at 11-30 a. m. on Tuesday, October, the 1st, 1918.

PRESENT.—The Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber, Messrs. R. Stanes, W. Rhodes James, W. Cherry, E. Sydenham Clarke, J. E. Bisset, Geo, Oakes, J. H. Wapshare, T. J. Kenna, A. G. Nicholson, N. Grey and A. S. Dandison (Chairman and Acting Honorary Secretary.) Visitors, Messrs. J. A. Richardson, and W. Winter.

(1) PROCEEDINGS.—The Proceedings of the previous Meeting were confirmed.

(2) U. P. A. S. I. General Meeting Delegates' Report as under was read and the Delegates were suitably thanked for their services, and expenses voted.

DELEGATES' REPORT.

Gentlemen,—We attended the U. P. A. S. I. Conference as your Delegates, also by permission of your Committee represented the N. W. P. A. and now beg to read you our report.

We will begin with the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. We seconded the resolution supporting the Control Committee's Scheme which was carried, a Committee being appointed to consider details.

The result of this being that it was decided.

(1) that the C. C's. scheme be accepted, but an extra two annas per acre can be raised in any one year, either on the whole or part of the acreage subscribing.

Any future increase can only be imposed by calling an extraordinary General Meeting, at which a ¾ majority be necessary.

(2) Coimbatore was selected as the headquarters for the present, instead of Madras, on account of lack of funds. It is to be hoped that Coimbatore will remain the headquarters till the Cochin Harbour is developed, and that any surplus funds will be used to increase the activities of the Labour Department, instead of being spent on a move to the Presidency Town.

(3) Two representatives are to be appointed from each D. A. on the G. C. which will meet twice a year.

(4) Present arrangements will continue till 31st December 1918.

(5) Subscriptions are recommended to be guaranteed for 5 years.

(6) Voting to be 1 vote for each 100 acres, or part of 100, and D. A's. are recommended to adopt the same.

PEST ACT.—We supported the resolution in favour of this, and trust to see it generally applied, at an early date.

PROGRAMME OF D. D. A.—As instructed we informed Mr. Anstead that if his services were required, due notice would be given.

ANALYTICAL BRANCH OF S. D.—This we hope will be re-opened soon, and efficiently conducted. An increased charge of 25% will be made to meet increased costs.

COFFEE CESS.—This is on the Agenda to-day, so we will not touch on the matter, but leave it for discussion as per the Resolution passed, of which you have all received copies.

TEA INCOME TAX.—We supported the resolution in favour of the matter being left in the able hands of I. T. A.

TEA IMPORT DUTY.—We supported this, and trust that it may receive an early and favourable consideration of Government.

Excellent speeches were made by Mr. Abbott and Mr. Richardson showing the disadvantages Indian grown tea has to contend with especially in Western India and we pointed out the fact that if Motor Cars can be railed long distances for joy riding pure and simple, arrangements could be made for Tea to be sent to Bombay, but assuming this to be impossible in future, why should not Outside Teas pay a cess, in the way of 4 annas duty if our market is to be exploited and money taken out of the country.

NOMINATION OF PLANTING MEMBER.—Sir Fairless Barber was unanimously nominated, but asked to be allowed to decline the honour and asked the Meeting to nominate Mr. J. A. Richardson, which nomination was carried unanimously.

MILITARY COFFEE RATION.—We supported a resolution to ask the Military Authorities to consider the desirability of issuing Indian grown Coffee as a ration to Native Troops.

PROHIBITION OF COFFEE EXPORT TO U. K.—This was dealt with under Imperial preference, the Resolution we proposed was much on the lines of last year, and it was unanimously carried. We trust it will receive more favourable consideration from the hands of Government than it did then.

STATISTICS.—We supported a resolution urging on affiliated Associations the necessity of making correct returns and seconded a resolution asking the Government of India to publish a report on the production of Coffee, similar to that of Tea, and supported a similar report for Rubber.

COCHIN HARBOUR.—The resolution passed in 1915 was re-affirmed, and Mr. Richardson's speech plainly indicated what not only the Planting industry, but the Country generally, has to gain from its development, with a produce market as a natural sequence.

RAILWAY FACILITIES.—A Resolution asking the Government of Madras to do their utmost to facilitate the transport of Planting Produce and requisites over the Railways, was carried.

INCORPORATION OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.—This would have far reaching effect, and needs very careful consideration. The main point is that it would make all members liable up to a certain, previously agreed upon amount. No acreage would be taken out after a guarantee had been given for a term of years. From the point of view of the Re-organising of the U. P. A. S. I. which from the 1st January 1919 will come into being, we think as the General Committee will have to budget for, have the handling of very large sums of money, matters must in the interests of all, be placed on some sound business footing. This matter in conjunction with others is now being considered by our Legal Advisers. As regards the costs of Incorporation, we are informed that it would be done for Rs. 300, and the liability might be placed at Rs. 50 per Estate.

SHIPPING FREIGHT AND TONNAGE.—We supported a Resolution asking for Steamers to all at West Coast Ports, including Bombay and Mangalore during Coffee Season, and also for a special boat for Australia.

B. E. PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION.—We seconded the Coorg resolutions in favour of affiliation to this organisation, for as we pointed out in placing the resolution on Imperial Conference before the Meeting, the aims of the B. E. P. O. are coincident with the former, and what we Producers want is, representation in an organisation dealing with the selling interests of the Producers in distinction to a more or less General Mercantile Association as the South Indian Association appears to be.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—We were asked to vote for the suspending of the Rule which limits the granting of over Rs. 500 to any one applicant, to enable the sum of Rs. 3,000 to be granted to the three sons of the late Mr. Imray to complete their education, and start them in the world for themselves.

Had this final assistance not been given the benefits derived by previous grants would have been nullified, and the sad plight of these boys can be better imagined than described.

PLANTERS' WAR FUND.—The Mundakayam Association brought up the question of the advisability of closing this Fund, but consensus of opinion was that though calls on the Fund have been small in the past, there is no hope to presume that such will be the case in the future, and instead of closing the Fund appeals be made to make the total of the Fund really worthy of the Planters of South India, who through various causes have been obliged to stay in security on their Estates, and we appeal to members of the N. P. A. to make a small contribution to a Fund intended to help those of our ranks who have been fighting for the Empire and for us, and have been broken in so doing.

It is not a charity, it is a duty, so let us accept the responsibility of seeing that the Fund is equal to any claims that may be made on it.

INDIAN DEFENCE FORCE.—Surely all of us would be only too happy to serve our King and Country on any Battle Front, and the only causes which should prevent anyone from so doing even at this late hour are ill-health, or infirmities, and also the fact that some of the younger "Ancients" must be left behind to carry on an Industry that is an Imperial Asset, and to form a "Band of Heroes" organised for Local Defence.

But organised, and carried out in Planting Districts without apparently a thought for defenceless women and children in isolated parts, or for the general disorganisation which it causes to an important and influential Industry, notwithstanding the promises made by the Authorities on first introducing the scheme. The speeches made plainly indicate that an alteration in present procedure is absolutely necessary, and we hope Mr. Mead's resolution will be given effect to.

LABOUR.—Mr. Hight's scheme.—This was finally, after discussion with the Labour Department Director, withdrawn. But in connection with this discussion we would like to draw attention to G. O. 101 which we were informed did without the continual attendance at Court formerly necessary when warranting a coolie.

Under this G. O. save for the original application for the warrant, it is not necessary for a complainant to appear in Court till he has received notice from the Trying Magistrate that the accused is actually under arrest, and that the case will come for hearing on a certain date.

For this our thanks are due to the Labour Department, and before leaving the subject of Labour we would draw attention to the paragraphs in Mr. Martin's Report on Overseas Competition and changing conditions in our Labour Districts.

Before concluding our report, we would like to make a few remarks about our Association. There appears to be a feeling going about that this Association is in a decadent position. In the past it has been referred to as "The Strong Nilgiri Association." Let us give the lie to cheap rumour, and by our acts show this still is the position it holds, for, as strength for its foundation must be based on "Unity" let us show an united front by all members of the N. P. A. determining to give our unanimous support to the scheme of Re-organisation, which though it first appeared would not meet with general support, was finally carried without a single dissentient vote,

and show in thus supporting a measure formulated for the general good, confidence in our Leaders, and appreciation of our fellow Planters unselfish and unstinted labour in working out the ground plan for our future structure. And further we would emphasise the fact that Mr. Nicolls was re-elected Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. for a third year successive term, (which constitutes a record in the annals of the Association) and that Sir Fairless Barber was again nominated Planting Member, an honour which however he declined. Gentlemen, we are proud of them both, and in congratulating them, let us congratulate ourselves that they are Nilgiri Men, and if the acreage they represent is leaving us to join the N. W. P. A. it is in the general as against Local interest but we hope they themselves will remain associated with us as either honorary or personal members.

CONCLUSIONS.—In conclusion, Gentlemen, we thank you for the honour you did us in appointing us your Delegates at this most important conference and we similarly thank the Nilgiri-Wynaad Planters' Association for having asked us to represent them also, an action which augers well for future harmonious relations between the new Association and ourselves.

(Sd.) A. S. DANDISON,
A. K. WELD DOWNING.

(3) Messrs. E. Sydenham Clarke and A. S. Dandison were elected to represent the N. P. A. on the General Committee of the Reorganised U. P. A. S. I.

(4) NILGIRI-WYNAAD PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—(*a*) It was agreed after a short discussion to accede to the suggestion made by the N.W.P.A. that the 2 annas per acre subscription payable to the U. P. A. S. I. from the 2½ annas per acre paid, be transferred in the Books of the U. P. A. S. I. to the credit of the N. W. P. A. on all Estates that are leaving the N. P. A. to join the N. W. P. A. with retrospective effect as from the 1st July, 1918.

(*b*) The Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the N. W. P. A. were elected Honorary members of the N. P. A. in accordance with the resolution passed by the N. W. P. A. at their Meeting on the 31st July last.

The Chairman pointed out that this step had been originally suggested by him informally to the N. W. P. A. as a measure which would ensure friendly relations between the two Associations, and facilitate settlement of and conduce to joint action on any future points that might affect similarly the interests of both Associations.

(5) COFFEE MATTERS.—In view of the coming Coffee Meeting to be held in Bangalore, for which Mr. Dandison was elected Delegate, it was decided not to bind the Association to any definite resolutions on the question or the selling proposals of Messrs. Geo. Payne, or Messrs. T. Stanes and Co. of cess or selling, the Delegate being instructed to act in the best interests of the Association, bearing in mind the views expressed. The following resolution was proposed by the Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber, and seconded by Mr. Kenna and carried. "That in view of the report that "some of the Coffee which was supplied to the Greek Government is lying "damaged in Bombay, this Association through its Delegate to the Banga- "lore Coffee Meeting urges Coffee Planters to replace the damaged Coffee, "and to send a curing expert to Bombay to examine the damaged Coffee and "to report on the damage."

Mr. R. Stanes informed the meeting that Mr. Holland (Messrs T. Stanes and Co's curer) was in Bombay at present and would be there till the end of October, and the Delegate to Bangalore was asked to point this out at the Meeting,

(6) ACCOMMODATION FOR GOODS TRAFFIC AT KATARY ROAD STATION.—Mr. Downing not being present this subject was postponed till next Meeting.

(7) GRAIN SHORTAGE.—A considerable discussion on the seriousness of the situation took place. In view of the fact that a Meeting was to take place in Calicut to-morrow on this subject, and that the Planting Member was doing all possible, it was decided that a formal resolution was inadvisable, but the Honorary Secretary was instructed to take such steps from time to time as might be necessary to meet the situation.

(8) POLICING OF COFFEE.—Read letter from the D. S. P. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to reply that the Association considered the Policing of Coffee should commence from the 15th October.

(9) PUBLICITY DEPT.—Read letter from this Dept., and it was decided that a copy be sent to all members requesting them to reply direct, the numbers of copies they could usefully distribute, and in which vernacular.

(10) RUBBER MATTERS.—Mr. James Stanes being unavoidably absent this item was postponed.

(11) SMALL COINS.—Planters having difficulty in obtaining these were referred to the letter in the *Chronicle* of the 28th, ultimo from the Secretary, Madras Chamber of Commerce to Mr. Mead.

(12) MR. G. F. WESTON ELWES WAS ELECTED HONORARY SECRETARY in place of Mr. Rogers resigned, and a vote of thanks was expressed to the late Honorary Secretary for his past services, and work on behalf of the Association.

(13) WITH VOTES OF THANKS TO THE COLLECTOR for the use of the room and to the Chair, the Meeting terminated.

(Signed) A. S. DANDISON,
Chairman.

Coffee Planters' Meeting at Banga'ore.

Meeting of Coffee Planters held at the U. P. A. Offices, Bangalore on October 7th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. A. S. Dandison (Nilgiri Planters' Association), A. C. W. Denne (Bababudin Planters' Association), R. G. Foster and H. Hart (North Mysore Planters' Association), E. L. Poyser (Shevaroy Planters' Association), C. J. Hayward (Chairman), (South Mysore Planters' Association), Mr. Fletcher Norton, Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., Mr. A. E. Stille of Messrs. George Payne & Co., Calcutta, Mr. H. M. C. Campbell of Messrs. Binny & Co., and Mr. Golden of Messrs. Stanes & Co.

The Chairman in opening the proceedings said:—

Gentlemen, the object of this meeting is to try and formulate a scheme with Mr. Stille for the advertising and pushing of Indian Coffee in India and the neighbouring countries.

The first point to be discussed was the advertising and pushing coffee in India, after some discussion it was recognised that this would be chiefly in connection with the lower grade coffee and the general opinion was that it was very doubtful if the results would justify the heavy expenditure required to carry it through.

As regards neighbouring countries, Mr. Stille proposed the holding of auction sales in Bombay and expressed the opinion that in course of time it would probably be unnecessary to hunt for other markets as he considered

the Gulf, Arabia and surrounding countries could absorb the whole of the Indian production, in this connection Mr. Stille suggested it might be sound policy to canvass these countries but was not in favour of storing coffee in Basra and other centres because the wily Arab knowing it would not pay the producer to ship the coffee elsewhere would not offer good prices, whereas if the coffee was in Bombay it would have to be bought in the open market, the matter of producers having to pay the freight etc., to Bombay was pointed out, but Mr. Stille was of the opinion that the prices obtained in Bombay owing to the larger market and being easier to get at, would fully cover the cost of freight etc., the suggestions were made that the auction sales could be held in Mangalore or by samples in Bombay but Mr. Stille was of the opinion that many merchants who would be likely to bid in Bombay would not see their way to making the long and troublesome journey to Mangalore and selling by samples would lead to much friction if by chance the coffee-market suddenly dropped, not up to sample or delay in delivering the coffee being useful excuses for crying off the deal.

Mr. Stille put two proposals before the Meeting as regards the terms his Firm would be prepared to accept to hold Auction Sales in Bombay.

i. Planters to put up Rs. 1,500 per mensem to cover establishment expenses and they would charge about 2% commission on sales.

ii. No monthly allowance and they would charge 5% commission on sales.

The Meeting considered both proposals excessive and pointed out the season only lasted about 6 months and Mr. Stille thought his Firm would be prepared to lower the scale of commission in the first proposal.

After further discussion this part of the Meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Stille for attending the Meeting.

Mr. Stille said he proposed writing a letter on the matter to be published in the *Planters' Chronicle*, this is not yet to hand. Mr. Golden, of Messrs. Stanes & Co., addressed the Meeting on the matter of pushing the sale of coffee in India but the opinion that results would not justify the necessary expenditure still held.

The meeting then discussed the following matters :—

i. Price of Coffee for future Army Contracts.

ii. Greek Government Contract and damaged Coffee.

The meeting agreed to the following price for future Army Contracts, Rs. 45 per cwt. free on rail Madras, Beach-Station for good, sound, mature beans, Government to supply the bags.

A suggestion was put forward that the Army might require the coffee to be roasted in future contracts but the meeting decided that the Planters could not undertake this but suggested that coffee could be sent to where the roasting could be done and the Army make their own arrangements about the roasting.

GREEK GOVERNMENT CONTRACT.—Mr. Dandison spoke as follows :—

Gentlemen,—Regarding the pushing of coffee in Foreign Markets there is one point that I have been instructed by my Association to bring forward, and that is the matter of the coffee sold to the Greek Government. We understand that some of this is lying damaged in Bombay, and we consider that as a matter of sound business this should be replaced. Insurance will cover any loss, and the damaged lot can be sold in this country. The Nilgiri Association considers that a Curing Expert should be sent to Bombay to examine and report on the damage, if necessary at the U.P.A.S.I. expense, but in any case sent or deputed, as if we are to work up a permanent connection with Greece, it is absolutely necessary that the first lot sent should be sound, in fact all orders of this kind should be most

carefully dealt with, and if necessary examined by an Expert before shipment in our own interests.

In connection with our proposal to send an Expert to examine this lot, Mr. R. Stanes informed us that Mr. Holland (Messrs T. Stanes. & Co's Curer) was at present in Bombay and that possibly some arrangement could be made with him to do the needful, and we would ask this Meeting to take steps to ensure that the Coffee sent to Greece be "vetted" sound and in good condition.

The following resolutions were carried :—

"This Meeting requests the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. with the sanction of the Chairman to write to the Collector of Customs, Madras, and state that the U. P. A. S. I. is prepared to replace the 180 bags of damaged coffee, if the damaged coffee and the Insurance certificates are handed over to the Association."

Proposed by A. S. Dandison.
Seconded by R. G. Foster.

The following resolution was put from the chair and carried.

This meeting considers it advisable as Messrs. Stanes & Co's., Curer Mr. Holland is now in Bombay to request the Secretary of the U. P. A. to write and ask Messrs. Stanes & Co., to arrange with Mr. Holland to survey the damaged Coffee and report as to :—

i. Marks on bags and Agents names if possible.
ii. Condition of Coffee.
iii. Probable cause of damage.

And that they be offered a fee of Rs. 75 plus coolie hire.

The meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

(Signed) C. J. HAYWARD.

South Indian Planters' Rice Meeting at Calicut.

Minutes of a special Meeting of South Indian Planters and Agents to consider the question of Rice supplies, held at the Malabar Club, Calicut, on Wednesday, October 2nd, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. S. Nicolls (Chairman), Sir Fairless Barber, Messrs, Richardson, Westaway. Pascoe, Mead, Mackie, Halliley, Harley. Jones, Eyre, Elkington, Kutter, Strachan, Shaw and J. R. Vincent.

The Chairman asked Sir Fairless Barber to address the Meeting on the subject of Rice supplies.

Sir Fairless Barber pointed out that freight from Rangoon to Madras is to be Rs. 30 per ton and presumed that the freight to the West Coast would be the same. He said that Rangoon Rice had been arriving at Madras and railed thence to Colombo, but the Ceylon Government have now been asked to make their own arrangements in future. Mr. Pascoe also spoke and said that a profit of 4 annas per bag would be insufficient for the buyers. He added that we should have buyers in Madras and also in the dry grain country to purchase supplies for hard grain eating coolies. Sir Fairless Barber, speaking in support of this suggusted that some such Firm as Messrs. Stanes & Co. should be appointed in Coimbatore.

Mr. Mackie said he understood that steamers carrying grain had been arranged by the Director of Civil Supplies in Travancore, to call at Colachel, Quilon and Alleppey.

The Chairman pointed out that the first question was to import Rice into South India and that the question of distribution can be arranged afterwards.

The question of guaranteeing purchases from buyers was gone into and it was decided that the Districts should furnish figures showing the number of bags required. The total was ascertained to be 32,000 bags per month of all grains, *viz* :—

	Bags,
Anamalais	4,000
Nilgiris	1,500
Wynaad	2,000
Peermade	6,000
Mundakayam	3,000
South Travancore	8,000
High Range	7,500
Total ...	32,000

of this two-fifths should be delivered on the East Coast and three-fifths on the West Coast. Should hard grains be procurable the total rice required would be 20,000 bags per mensem.

It was suggested that imports on the West Coast be left to present channels and on the East Coast to be distributed amongst Madras Firms.

The Meeting then drew up and unanimously accepted the following recommendations :—

(1) That the U. P. A. S. I. informs the Director of Civil Supplies that the approximate monthly requirements of rice in the Planting Districts (excluding Mysore and Coorg) are 20,000 bags,

(2) The Association is not in a position to ascertain to what extent this quantity can be supplied from the usual local sources, but in the event of this quantity having to be imported from Burma, about 8,000 bags will be required for the East Coast and 12,000 for the West Coast, monthly.

(3) In the event of dry grain not being available in the Districts where it is the chief staple, a further supply of 12,000 bags of Rice will be required, chiefly on the West Coast.

(4) The Association recommends that the Channels of supply should be as few as possible and suggests that Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., on the West Coast and Messrs. Binny & Co , on the East Coast should be requested to go into the matter with the Director of Civil Supplies with the view of distributing imports amongst the different importers.

(5) The U. P. A. S. I. would draw the attention of Government to the fact that the Mysore Government G. O. of the 16th September, having reference to hard grains, has not been given effect to, and would request that the Madras Government make the necesssry representations to the Mysore Government securing the free entry of hard grains into the Nilgiri and Wynaad districts.

The Chairman pointed out that the first question was the importation of rice into South India and the question of distribution could be arranged afterwards.

(Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Resident in Mysore).

(6) The U. P. A. S. I. begs to call the attention of Government to the present precarious position of the Anamalais in regard to the food stuffs required for 20,000 persons, owing to the starving of the Pollachi Market by the restriction of grain imports from surrounding districts, to which must be added the difficulties of cart transport which have been intensified by the present epidemic of influenza.

The Chairman then closed the Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

D. C. No. 77-11. Revenue Secretary's office. Special Branch,
Ootacamund, Dated the 2nd October, 1918.

My dear Barber,—With reference to the interview you and Richardson had on the 23rd ultimo with Gillman on the question of rice supply to the planting districts, I am to say that Wood has already prohibited export of paddy and rice by rail from Malabar and has been asked not to allow any such export by sea pending orders of the Government of India. Wood has also prohibited exports from Tanjore to Ceylon except under his certificate and proposes to endeavour to divert to Travancore and Cochin the rice which has hitherto been going to Ceylon from Tanjore and Madura.

2. The Government of India have just secured some steamers to bring rice from Burma to Madras and Wood is trying to arrange to divert one or two of them to the West Coast, With additional imports into the Presidency, the diversion of the surplus stocks in Tanjore and Madura and the conservation of imported stocks in Malabar, the Government consider that Planters should find no difficulty in getting their supplies from Cochin.

3. I am in this connection to point out that Wood has general control over the movement of supplies and traffic and the Government do not propose to interfere with him except by general directions. I am therefore to ask that the planters should communicate with him in regard to these matters.

Yours sincerely
(Sd.) A. W. KNAPP.

To The Hon'ble SIR E. F. Barber,
Ootacamund.

Tea.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India.
No. 20580/20625 T. C. Block B-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.

From Lt.-Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A.
Tea Commissioner for India,

To All Tea Agency Houses, Firms & Estates shipping tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India,

Dated the 8th/9th October 1918.

Gentlemen/Sir.—In connection with the terms of the new 1918 contract, I have the honour to say that the Food Controller has cabled to me as follows:—

"Paragraphs respecting quantities in excess of 66% eliminated from contract."

This evidently refers to paragraph 12 (c) of the "General Conditions of Sale" annexed to the 1917 form of tender received from the Food Controller.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen/Sir
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo No. 20626/34 T. C. dated the 8/9th October., 1918.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore,

W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

Owing to the unfortunate prevalence of Influenza in this office we are only enabled to publish in the Contents page, the following letter from Messrs. Morgan and Son, Mangalore, and to draw attention to the Thermometer:—

Mangalore, 21st Oct., 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

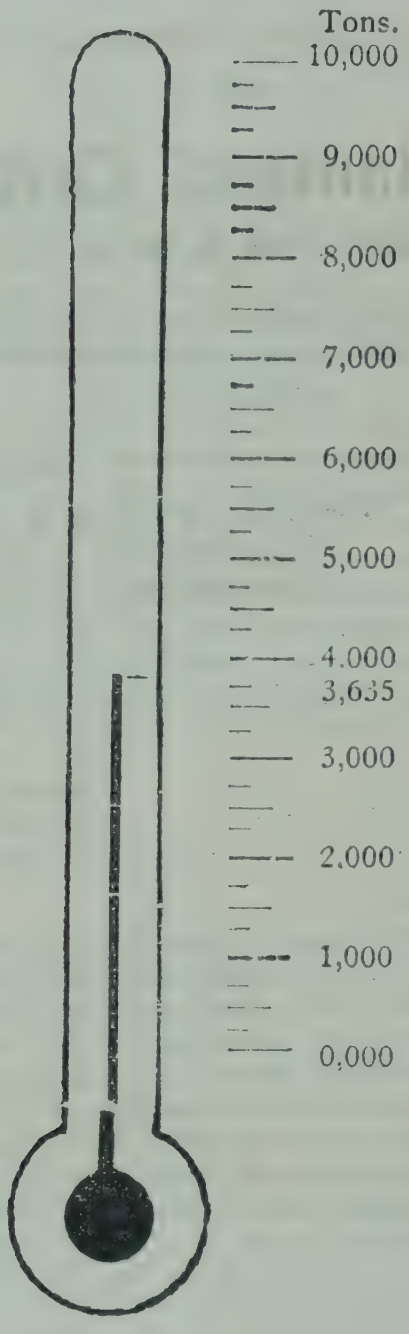
Dear Sir,—It has come to our knowledge that there is a rumour going round the District that we have not only not joined the "Combine" to keep up the price of coffee, but are actually persuading others not to do so; this is a Perversion of Fact All we have done is to give our "advance" constituents reasons, why we have not joined the "Combine." At the same time we have assured them that we shall do our utmost to keep up the price of coffee, which is also our interest to do, being large coffee Estate Proprietors. However, notwithstanding what we stated in the second para of our circular letter dated 5th instant and further information having reached us to convince all, that we wish to act to the best interests of the Planting Community, and that we are not preparing the way to "early break the market", we are ready to join the "Combine" till the middle of February, simply reserving the right to sell any Constituents Coffee, at a lower rate should he (not being in the "Combine") give us definite instructions to do so in writing.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
MORGAN & SON.

S. I. PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	83,641	10	3
Mr. J. C. Abbott	100	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
The Honorary Secretary, Malabar Club, Calicut ...	9	0	0
Mr. J. S. Wilkie	500	0	0
Total ...	84,280	10	3

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 50 per cwt for Parchment and Rs. 40 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) amounts to date to 3,635 tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Mouldy Rubber.

Now that Rubber is being stored in large quantities, complaints are often made that it gets mouldy. Coast agent and manager blame one another for this, the former says the Rubber left the estate wet and improperly cured, the latter that it got wet in the godowns.

I recently had an opportunity of seeing some cases opened in a godown and the rubber, a few of them was wet especially at the edges and had turned soft and opaque. In this instance there was no doubt whatever that the cases had got wet during transport and water had entered between the cracks of the chest boards. The appearance of the rubber could be exactly simulated by soaking a piece of dry sheet in water for a few hours. Such wet sheet would later grow moulds.

If the rubber is to be stored the utmost care should be taken to see that the chests do not get wet during transport from estate to coast port.

The following article on the subject by Eaton appeared in a recent issue of the *India Rubber Journal* : —

Complaints have been received from time to time by managers of rubber estates, from brokers or agents in London, or other rubber-buying centres, that rubber has been received from the estate which is affected with 'spot disease,' although according to the manager in each case, the rubber left the estate perfectly dry and free from 'spot disease.' Several instances of this have been brought to the notice of the Department of Agriculture, and when visiting an estate about a month ago the writer was asked by the manager to give a written opinion as to the possibility of 'spot diseases' affecting the rubber after it had left the estate in a perfectly dry clean condition, since, in this particular case, the estate rubber was sent to Malacca and shipped from that port. It is well known that transport of goods, etc, at Malacca from the shore to the ship has to be carried out in lighters or sampans, and especially in rough weather, the sea water may come into contact with cases of rubber. From previous experience the opinion was given that the development of 'spot disease' due to the growth of chromogenic organisms in the rubber, owing to the rubber becoming wetted, either by rain or sea water, was highly probable.

In order to prove definitely, however, that such development of chromogenic organisms can and does occur in perfectly dry clean pale crepe, owing to the rubber coming into contact with water subsequently, a piece of thin crepe was dipped into water for about five minutes, taken out and thoroughly shaken to remove as much of the adhering surface moisture as possible, and then rolled into a cylinder by hand in order to retain the moisture and intimate the conditions existing in a case of such rubber.

After about ten days considerable development of chromogenic organisms occurred and the rubber is now coloured with patches of orange, blue, and yellow.

A second piece of the same crepe was allowed to soak for several days in water and then removed, shaken, and rolled in a similar manner, when the same development of chromogenic organisms took place.

These experiments prove definitely that rubber may leave an estate in a perfect condition and subsequently arrive home in a bad condition due to carelessness or accidents at the shipping port. It is even possible that such chromogenic organisms or their spores, present in dry rubber, may survive the voyage of four to six weeks, and may develop after the rubber reaches

port in Europe or America, if the rubber subsequently becomes damp. It would be of interest if rubber chemists or other scientific officials in London or elsewhere would repeat these experiments and report as to the results. In winter the rubber, after soaking in water, would probably require incubation at about 85 deg: Fah. to correspond with our shade temperature here, otherwise the organisms may not develop at a lower temperature.

It is also interesting to note that dry, well-smoked rubber sheet may develop mildew on the surface for similar reasons, while low grade rubber may ferment and become tacky. With regard to the development of chromogenic organisms in rubber, as shown by the development of pigment, several interesting observations have been made recently by the writer, while experimenting on the influence of the rate of drying of rubber on the rate of vulcanization.

In the first place, no development of pigment occurs in 'slab' rubber *i.e.*, slightly pressed coagulum, until the slab is cut open later, when pigment develops on the cut surface after a few days. Secondly, if sheet rubber is rolled into a cylinder straight from the sheeting machine, no development of pigment takes place till the sheet is cut open, when pigment develops on the cut surface. When wet thin crepe, on the other hand, is rolled into a cylinder, there is invariably a great production of pigment due to the growth of these chromogenic organisms. It would appear from these experiments that the presence of air is therefore necessary for the development of the organisms or for the formation of the pigments, and this is excluded in rolled sheet or 'slab' rubber. Also it is probable that an excess of moisture may retard or prevent the formation of the pigment, and that the pigment forms later when the moisture content is somewhat reduced. Another interesting fact observed is that the pigment, due to the growth of the organisms, develops far more readily in thin crepe which is converted to thick or blanket crepe while still wet, than in original thick crepe, which has not first been rolled thin, even though the original thick crepe may have a higher moisture content when freshly manufactured than the blanketed thin crepe. This is due to the fact that the original thick crepe being softer and probably more porous, loses its moisture at a much greater rate than thin crepe which is blanketed while still wet, due to the hardness of the latter when rolled thick. Owing to the faster rate of drying of the original thick crepe, the moisture content is reduced to too low an amount to admit of a marked development of the organisms which cause the pigmentation of the rubber.

It also appears probable, although the problem has not yet been studied sufficiently, that these organisms act upon the protein or protein decomposition products and destroy the accelerating agent formed in the rubber during the first six or seven days of drying or produce a further cleavage of these substances. In any case no further change causing acceleration in rate of cure takes place in thin crepe which is rolled into a cylinder while still wet, that is, immediately it is taken from the machine, while a slight acceleration in rate of cure, is produced by blanketing similar thin wet crepe. This effect again confirms the idea that the decomposition of the proteins producing acceleration in rate of cure is due to anaerobic processes, which do not take place in the rolled crepe, owing to the comparatively large amount of air between the layers of crepe when rolled together in a cylinder by hand, while a slight but definite acceleration in rate of cure is produced by blanketing thin wet crepe.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

West Coast Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the General Meeting held at the Malabar Club, at 10 a. m. on Thursday, the 3rd October, 1918.

PRESENT.—Mr. Lescher (Chairman), Messrs. Mead, Nicolls, Eaton and Halliley (Honorary Secretary). *Visitors.*—Messrs. Norton, Eyre and Strachan.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read.

384. A vote of condolence to the parents of the late Mr. W. H. C. Lohr was passed, all members standing.

385. ALTERATION OF RULE 2.—After the words ". . . . North Travancore District," "or Rubber Estates in Coorg, provided the Coorg Planters' Association has no objection," should be inserted.—*Carried nem. con.*

386. ELECTION OF A NEW COMPANY MEMBER.—The Portland Rubber Company Limited., was elected a member of the Association. Proposed by Mr. Lescher and seconded by Mr. Nicolls.—*Carried.*

387. U. P. A. S. I. CONFERENCE.—The delegates report was read as follows:—

"Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,—We, your delegates elected at the last meeting, duly attended the conference of the U. P. A. S. I. held on the 19th August and following days. The session was memorable in that the Governor of the Province was good enough to open the proceedings. Further, that, for the first time in the history of the Association, the meeting was held in the capital of the Presidency. Again, the U. P. A. S. I. was celebrating its Silver Jubilee.

"The meeting was a particularly important one, inasmuch as the whole matter of re-organisation had to be settled. The Planting Community are to be congratulated on having a Chairman, whose tact and popularity enabled the meeting to come to an amicable agreement on a matter which has divided us all since the inception of the Labour Department. Our thanks we think are also due to Mr. Pinches who throughout the controversy has adopted a temperate and considerate attitude.

"After discussion in general committee, a special committee of six was elected, representative of tea, coffee and rubber to study the Control Committee's scheme in detail and report to the general meeting. You have all seen the resolution as put and carried and we can congratulate ourselves that the U. P. A. S. I. is a united body. It is impossible to have a scheme to please everybody, but it would appear to your delegates that the larger interests are agreed and, we, your delegates, do not fear important secessions from the U. P. A. S. I. We hope that the reorganised association will come into being at an early date,

The importance of the re-organisation so overshadows everything else connected with the meeting that your delegates have no hesitation in enlarging on the subject. It was decided that each district association should elect two members to the General Committee of the U. P. A. S. I. It is for you, gentlemen, to elect them to-day. This General Committee will meet at least twice a year and is empowered to elect an Executive Council of three, who with the Chairman and Planting Member, should form the actual executive of the U. P. A. S. I. This triumvirate will represent respectively tea, coffee and rubber interests. It was further decided that firms connected with planting should be eligible for election to full membership and one vote. Your delegates appreciate the step as it enables the U.P.A.S.I. to get sound advice and ripe experience on matters outside the ordinary planter's ken.

"You will all have read with interest His Excellency's speech, as also the addresses and reports by the Chairman, Planting Member, Secretary, and Director of the Labour Department. Mr. Anstead, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, read an interesting report of his year's activities. The Director of Agriculture attended the meeting and we have to thank him for the manner in which his department has helped us in the past and intends helping us in the future.

"EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—Mr. Rae, Chairman of the Madras Branch, addressed the meeting on the importance of every non-official European present in India who has had a good time in the past or hopes to have one in the future, subscribing according to his means to a capital fund of ten lakhs, which it is necessary for the Association to have to enable them to carry on their activities untrammelled by financial cares. Sir Bernard Hunter and Sir Gordon Fraser both addressed the meeting and we consider that all they said gave food for serious thought to all of us. We trust that all members of the West Coast P. A. will properly realise the importance of the European Association and the duty they owe to themselves and their compatriots out here.

"R. G. A.—The meeting voted that the representative of the rubber industry on the Executive Council of the U. P. A. S. I. should *de facto* be chairman of the local branch, provided always he was a member of that body.

"Local associations were asked to urge members to join the R. G. A. without delay. We trust this applies to no one in this association.

"MYCOLOGIST FOR RUBBER.—The meeting accepted the suggestion of the Mundakayam P. A. that a guarantee should be given for a special mycologist for rubber for the next five years, and agreed on the urgency of an early appointment.

"BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION.—Your delegates took upon themselves in common with other delegates present, to pay a subscription of Rs. 110 this year towards the U. P. A. S. I. subscription of £100.

"PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.—To all thinking members the shibboleth of Free Trade is regared as a "dud" emanating from the *Manchester Guardian* and the Cocoa Press in general. Our resolution in favour of Preferential Tariff inside the Empire will, we feel sure, meet with your approval.

"I. D. F. Your representative, Mr. Mead, associated with Mr. Congreve, pointed out the futility of the present hard and fast regulations which neither admitted the proper training of individuals nor added to the security of the country.

"The following uncontroversial subjects were all brought up at the meeting. 'Railway Facilities,' 'Cochin Harbour,' 'Income Tax,' 'Import Duty on Tea,' and 'Shipping Freights and Tonnage.'

"We need not touch on anything unconnected with our own industry beyond mentioning the lame, laboured and grudging apology extracted from Mr. Newby by the Coffee Planters for his unjustifiable insults to their community.

"ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.—In accordance with the expressed opinion of this association at our last meeting, it is gratifying to record that Mr. Nicolls was unanimously elected chairman for the third time in succession, thus creating a record in the annals of the U. P. A. S. I. The Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber was unanimously re-nominated but insisted on retiring, and Mr. J. A. Richardson was nominated in his place. This is the appointment your Association advocated in the event of Sir Fairless Barber resigning his arduous task. Your delegates dimly realise the amount of work involved by the shouldering of these responsibilities. Your association was complimented by the election of one of your delegates, Mr. Mead, as vice-chairman, and member of the Madras Chamber of Commerce.

"Your delegates would like to record their thanks to the residents of Madras and the Members of the Madras Club for the hospitality showered on them—to Sir Francis Spring we are indebted for the interesting visit to the Harbour Works.

"We have to thank the members of the West Coast P. A. for electing us as delegates to this historic meeting and trust they consider their interests have been efficiently regarded."

(Signed) 1 A. H. MEAD.
(„) 2 S. P. EATON.
(„) 3 E. H. HALLILEY.

On the proposal of Mr. Lescher seconded by Mr. Nicolls, a vote of thanks was accorded the delegates.

388. ELECTION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS U. P. A. S. I.—On the proposal of Mr. Lescher seconded by Mr. Eaton, the following were elected to represent the Association :—

1. Mr. A. H. MEAD.
2. Mr. A. C. MORRELL.—*Carried.*

389. RUBBER MATTERS.—The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Mead and seconded by Mr. Nicolls : "In consideration of the fact that Government when removing rubber from the priority list, stated as an essential point that finance and nothing else was the reason, we, as an Association ask Government for an equal right of shipping as other rubber producing countries. We ask nothing more than that we should be given proportionate shipping space."—*Carried.*

LOCAL MEMBER OF THE R. G. A. COMMITTEE.—Mr. Mead was unanimously elected.

390. S. I. PLANTERS' WAR FUND.—Members attention was drawn to Mr. Nicolls' speech at the General Meeting.

391. INDIA'S MAN POWER.—The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Mead and seconded by Mr. Lescher: "That this Association considers the present method of holding concentration camps by the I. D. F. as not in accordance with the promises given when the Act was passed, taking into consideration the denuded state of the planting districts being practically down to their last man, namely that business would be interfered with as little as possible."—*Carried.*

392. INCORPORATION.—The meeting considered that until other Associations incorporated there was not much object in this Association going to the expense.

393. EXPERIMENTAL STATION (MOOPLY VALLEY.)—A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Mead for his invitation to all interested to visit the station.

394. THE PALAPILLY-VARANDARPILLY ROAD.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Chief Engineer, Cochin State, pointing out the deplorable condition of the road each monsoon.

395. CORRESPONDENCE.—The following was laid on the table (1) Rough Handling of Goods Tuticorin, Colombo, (2) Income Tax Act, (3) Messrs. Parry & Co's Letter *re* Fertilisers.

With a vote of thanks to the Honorary Secretary and Members of the Malabar Club for the use of the room the meeting terminated,

(Signed) R. LESCHER,
Chairman.

(„) E. H. HALLILEY,
Honorary Secretary.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on 18th October, 1918.

PRESENT:—Messrs. S. Campbell, H. S. Dyer, V. Travers-Drapes, S. M. Hight, N. Hight, C. L. Hight, J. C. Large, E. L. Poyser, Mrs. Robinson, Messrs. C. D. Ryle, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, V. S. Wooduviss, H. Whittle and Chas. Dickins (Honorary Secretary and Chairman.)

(1). The notice calling the meeting was taken as read.

(2). DELEGATES REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.—The Honorary Secretary read his report as follows:—

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Gentlemen,—It affords me great pleasure to place the statement of accounts of the S. P. A. from 1st September 1917 to end of August 1918 before you. It is also customary at the A. G. M. for the Honorary Secretary to

give in a report relating to the work done by the Association during the past year. I regret I am unable to do this, but will instead, furnish you with a short resume of the most important matters brought before us during the year. I shall begin with finance first, by saying that we started the year with a balance of Rs. 249-5-7 to our credit carried over from last year. Out of outstandings of Rs. 150, Rs. 120 was paid in, subscriptions from 29 members at Rs. 30 each for the year = Rs. 870, subscriptions from one subscriber for 10 months =Rs. 25. Subscriptions from 3 members for 7 months, = Rs. 52-8-0 and subscription from 1 subscriber for 4 months =Rs. 10. Total realised in subscriptions amount to Rs. 957-8-0. 15 members subscribed to the P. B. F. at 10 Rs. each, =150. By the sale of 2726 bamboo permits at 2 annas each, and 400 gross permits at 3 pie each Rs. 40-4-0 was realised. as well as Rs. 8-6-6 by the sale of the balance of Cooly, Maistry, and contract agreement forms left over from last year. This brings the total income to Rs. 1,525-8-1, including what we have to our credit at the B. M. Salem. The expenditure here is as follows Rs. 204, for office establishment which includes Peon and Clerk. Rs. 30-4-0 on account of wires, Registered letters, letters and stationery. Rs. 21-3-0 on account of printing S. P. A. notices, and various circulars. Rs. 46-4-0 to the Forest Department being the value of 320 bamboo permits, at 2 annas each, and 400 gross permits at 3 pies each and 12 annas for the V. P. P. Commission. Subscriptions paid to the Secretary U. P. A. S I. amount to Rs, 789-6-0 on account of the following items *viz.*,

(1) On account of 4915 acres at 2 annas per acre Rs. 614-6-0.
(2) „ „ the P. B. F. Rs. 150-0-0.
(3) Silver Jubilee Souriver Rs. 25-0-0.

The delegation expenses amount to Rs. 300.

An account of Rs. 100 to Mr. S. M. Hight.

An account of Rs. 100 to Mr. E. Travers-Drapes for the Madras Meeting and Rs. 100 to Mr. E. L. Poyser for attending the Ootacamund Meeting held on the 5th October 1917.

This brings our total expenditure to Rs. 1392-15-0 leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 132-9-6 and Rs. 14-10-0 represeniing 177 Bamboo permits at 2 annas each and the outstandings due to the Association for this year amount to Rs. 120, = Rs. 30 of which is due from 1917.

The accounts have been through the hands of your Auditors and I trust they will be able to certify to the correctness of the statements I have just read out to you.

When closing the Association books, there were 35 coffee estates, and 2 fruit orchards on the roll, against 33 estates last year.

With reference to outstandings I am glad to say that Rs. 60 has been paid in, thereby saving us the necessity of having a special collection to meet the last Delegates travelling expenses.

During the year under review 9 meeting were held (*vs*), S. G. M. on 12th October 1917, A. G. M. 26th October, S. G. M. 23rd November, Q. G. M. 1st February, Committee Meeting 5th April, Q. G. M. 17th May, S. G. M. 5th July, S. G. M. 26th July and Committee Meeting 16th August,

These meetings have been very well attended and my duties as Honorary Secretary have been made pleasant by the considerable interest taken by the members in the various subjects brought up for discussion at the meetings.

At the meeting of 12th October Mr. Poyser gave us a short account of what transpired at the Ootacamund meeting when Finance and the Coffee position was discussed. It is owing to the various meetings organised by the U. P. A. S. I., and to which we sent Delegates, that Coffee is in a much better position than last year and the year before. At one time it looked as if disaster threatened the Industry. Our cordial thanks are undoubtedly due to the executive of the U. P. A. S. I. for the prompt action and interest that it took on our behalf thereby saving the situation. Offers were made to our Association by the U. P. A. S. I. to meet the 180 tons purchased by the Army in India, for tho 500 tons for the War Office in England, and for the 2000 tons for the Greek Government. Could this have been achieved without the aid of the U. P. A. S. I.'? Hence I feel it my duty to ask members, who contemplate resigning this Association for the reason that the L. D. has become a part of the U. P. A. S. I to pause and reflect,

The Committee Meeting of 5th April was chiefly in connection with Taccavi loans to Planters and a Sub-Committee was appointed for estimating crops in case of necessity, the Sub-Committee elected being Messrs. C. Rahm, E. Travers Drapes, Mr. S. H. Hight and C. H. Dickins—and I feel sure you will agree with me that this Association should place on record its appreciation and thanks to the Government for Assisting those members who required temporary loans owing to coffee restrictions.

At the Q. G. M. of 17th May Mr. H. S. Dickins was elected to represent this Association on the Salem District Board in the place of Revd. Father Capelle who resigned.

At the meeting of 5th July the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. was discussed, as well as Mr. Hight's scheme. At the Committee meeting held on 16th August the subject of "combing out" the younger members of the S. P. A. for the I. A. R. O. was discussed, and arrangements made for the supervision of their Estates.

This resume would be incomplete if I did not mention the great pleasure we had of meeting Messrs. Anstead and McRae at our meeting held on 23rd November last. These gentlemen delivered very interesting addresses—the former on fruit growing and vegetables, (especially the potatoe) and the latter on root diseases. It may be here noted that considerable interest is being taken by some of the Planters and residents of the Shavaroys, by way of improving the present fruit supply both as to quantity and quality, especially the apple. During the year I had the pleasure of visiting 3 well laid out apple orchards and was agreeably surprised to see what advance had been made. These young orchards are already bearing and the fruit surpassing in flavour and size, any that I have had from Bangalore or Kulu, and I believe these orchards will form the nucleus of a trade hitherto unknown to the Shevaroys. My attention has also been drawn to the fact that the waste Land about Yercaud, now so over-run by Lantana, could be very well utilised for the profitable cultivation of the so-called "common Shevaroy Pear" which is by no means considered "a common pear" in the low country and I have heard on very good authority that they sell at as

much as 1 anna each for medium size on some of the Railway Platforms, and it has been whispered to me that the Pondichery Mission knew quite well what they were about when they started the extensive cultivation of the Pear on this property on the Green Hills—while on the subject of fruit—I trust, you will pardon me for reading a letter addressed to the Association lately received from the Collector and District Magistrate of Salem *re* the supply of fruit—and if any member will undertake the contract, I shall be pleased to send in his name.

* * * *

In continuation,

I would like to refer to the good work done on the Shevaroys by the Police during last crop season under the able supervision of Inspector Santha Pillai. It was a matter of general regret when we heard of his transfer to another District. The Association took action to the extent of asking the authorities to retain him, but possibly they had something better in store for him, so our appeal was refused. Nevertheless we wish Inspector Santha Pillai every success in his new district.

It is a matter of regret that Mr. R. W. B. Gompertz has resigned this association from December. He took very great interest in all planting politics and his resignation is our loss. I desire to place on record the valuable services rendered by Mr. E. Travers Drapes to this Association during his short stay on the Shevaroys. His genial countenance and help will be much missed at our meetings, and I am sure I echo the sentiments of this Meeting when I say he has our heartiest good wishes and we hope he will receive rapid promotion in the I. A. R. O.

It is gratifying to note that Messrs. Genish & Co. of Madras have extended their business to the Shevaroys and it is up to us to render them every encouragement. Outside competition will rouse the Salem Chetties who have had too much of their own way the last few years.

We extend our sympathies to Mr. J. C. Large whose son Captain Edward Large of the Koyal Artillery was reported missing on the 27th May. He was a member of this Association and represented the Cauvery Peak Estate. We yet hope to welcome him amongst us again—also to Mrs. and Mr. Hight, whose son Lieut. Philip Hight was taken prisoner in the great offensive at the end of March, and also to Mrs. Cherry whose son Captain Kenneth Leeming was seriously wounded at Roye on 10th August. Captain Leeming has been awarded the Military Cross and twice mentioned in despatches. He was working the Scotforth Estate when war broke out and went Home in January 1916 and "joined up." We are glad to hear he is progressing favourably. We are also glad to learn that Captain Ingle Lechler, son of Mr. W. I. Leckler of Inglewood Estate who was dangerously wounded in France during the 3rd year of the war has now quite recovered and we hope before long to have him back in Yercaud again. Three other well known lads of Yercaud, Ernie Dickins, son of Captain E Dickins, Alford Kahm son of Mr W Kahm, and Vere Short, son of Mr. C. K. Short, are now serving their King and country, the 1st is a 2nd Lieutenant in the I A. R. O. and is now at Baghad, the 2nd is a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Flying Corps, the 3rd is a Lieutenant in the 4th Rajputs Punjabee Regiment, and is now serving on the Italian Swiss Frontier. We wish them all success and good luck.

It is deplorable that the building of the Hospital and Dispensary in the Nagalur District has not been started yet, and I have drawn the attention of Government to the fact, at the same time pointing out the urgency of the matter.

In conclusion I would remind you that it is the rule to elect your Honorary Secretary and Committee for the year at the A. G. M. but owing to this Association having joined the re-organised U. P. A. S. I. from January 1919, I would therefore venture to suggest that the present Executive serve up to the end of the year and that the election takes place at the 1st meeting we held in the new year and that in future the A. G. M. be held as early as possible at the beginning of the year and the accounts balanced accordingly. If you disapprove of this course, I bow to your decision.

(Signed) CH. DICKINS,
Honorary Secretary S. P. *A.*

Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight, Seconded by Mr. V. Travers Drapes and carried unanimously:—"That the Honorary Secretary's report be adopted, and printed together with the proceedings of this meeting.

(3) THE BANGALORE COFFEE MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH MESSRS. PAYNE & CO.—Mr. E. L. Poyser (the Delegate) reported the results of the meeting.

Proposed from the Chair and unanimously carried:—"That a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Poyser for kindly representing this Association at the meeting."

(4) PUBLIC AUCTION OF COFFEE.—Read letter dated 11th October from the Honorary Secretary, S. M. P. Association.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to thank the Honorary Secretary S. M. P. A. for his letter at the same time supporting their resolution and also to inform him that this Association is in favour of "Bombay auctions" with a commission of 5 per cent.

COFFEE CESS.—Read letter No.2102 dated 25th July from E. W. Legh Esq, I. C. S., Collector of the Salem District. Proposed by Mr. E. L. Poyser, seconded by Mr. C. D. Ryle, and unanimously carried:—

"That this Association is not in favour of taxing exported coffee alone to benefit only the coffee which remains in India but would agree to universal cess on all coffee produced in the country."

(6) MR. WADDINGTON'S VISIT TO THE SHEVAROYS.—Read letter dated 30-9-18 from Director Labour Department. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to convene a meeting for Friday 8th November, commencing at 2 p. m. and to let Mr. Waddington know.

(7) ELECTION OF TWO S. P. A MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE ASSOCIATION AT THE U. P. A. S. I. GENERAL COMMITTEE.—Messrs. E. L. Poyser and C. D. Ryle were unanimously elected.

(8) URGENT ADDITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE SHEVAROYS.—Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight, seconded by Mr. V. S. Wooduviss and unanimously carried:—That the Honorary Secretary do write to the

Collector and District Magistrate of the Salem District requesting him to kindly place the 3 Forest Bungalows situtated at Kindlur, Velallakadia, and Kumbutuki—which are not occupied at present—at the disposal of the medical authorities to start temporary Dispensaries for the relief of the severe epidemic of influenza now prevalent in the Shevaroys which is causing great loss of life throughout the villages and estates and that the Honorary Secretary be requested to send a copy of this resolution to the D. M. and S. O. Salem, for urgent consideration.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting terminated.

(Signed) CHAS. DICKINS,
Hon. Secretary & Chairman, S. P. A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

18th October, 1918.

Coffee Combine.

THE EDITOR.
Planters Chronicle,
Bangalore

Dear Sir, In reply to J A's Query in your issue of October 12th (Page 686),

So long as the "True Issues" are not "doctored" this "Payne" will undoubtedly be the determining factor.

Whether it will be "Stille" (or Hill") appears to rest with a "printer's devil" (page 615).

There will, however, be no necessity to "put it on the planter" since the planter is now "put on to the Payne."

Yours faithfully,
R. W. B. G.

Shola Rock Estate,
Katary P. O. Nilgiris,
21—10—18.

Castor Oil Seed.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Sir,—Will any of your readers kindly inform me of the market value at present of castor oil seed, also if there is any special oil extractor (machine) suitable for this seed, to be had in this country?

Yours faithfully,
PHIL. BEAVER.

Suntikoppa, North Coorg,
13th October, 1918.

To The Editor,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—The figures of Imports, Deliveries, and Stocks of Coffee in London for 31 weeks of 1918 compared with 31 weeks of 1917 as officially issued to 9th of August last will no doubt be interesting to coffee men who may not have seen them, and may I therefore ask you to find one a little space to publish them.

London being by a long way the chief coffee market in the United Kingdom, it will be seen. (1) That the figures do not bear out the glut in stocks we have heard about. (2) That they *do* bear out the reported great increase in Home consumption, and that by no less than about 36 per cent., the consumption of Brazil having nearly doubled.

Our production this season is estimated at about 12,000 tons with some of last season's coffee still unsold, or unshipped. Making every effort to push sales and find markets in India and the East generally, we must remember it takes time and what chance is there, or likely to be, during this season, of realising this weight of coffee unless the bulk of it can be shipped Home? The figures are eloquent of mild coffees being wanted, or of their being crushed out of the market by the Brazil product before long, unless the supply can be kept up. Ought we not therefore to hammer away for the removal of shipping restrictions? Considering the relative amount of tonnage sailing from Indian and East African ports respectively, it certainly is one of those phenomena, no mortal can understand when East Africa can ship and India cannot.

The planting correspondent of the *Madras Mail*, X, has just referred to the large stocks in the United Kingdom. I hope he can further enlighten us, as I have only the figures for the Port of London.

	Landed.		Home Consumption.		Stock.	
Coffee.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British West India	105	287	124	79	759	887
British East India ...	54	2,807	1,142	866	491	2,551
Mocha ...	—	70	319	259	289	799
Foreign East India ...	1,434	336	65	56	1,874	799
Brazil ...	3,066	21,550	11,056	5,926	14,778	30,649
Columbian ...	127	353	315	271	1,070	1,635
Costa Rica ...	307	4,014	1,602	2,571	717	3,560
Gautemala, &c. ...	590	1,195	936	1,140	5,679	6,811
African ...	1,893	1,039	671	753	908	926
Total Tons ...	7,576	31,651	16,230	11,921	26,565	48,617

Note.—The Export from London of all kinds for the same period total for 1918, 3,636 tons, and for same period 1917, 6,693 tons.

H. W. S.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. is availing himself of a month's leave from November 9th. The Director, Labour Department, has kindly consented to attend to correspondence during his absence.

The Deputy Directory of Agriculture, Planting Districts, has gone to Mooply Valley to meet the Director of Agriculture, Madras, with a view to selecting the Rubber Experimental Plot.

The Mercury has risen to 4,414.

We publish the Deputy Director's Tour in Coorg.

Also the Proceedings of a General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association, those of the Bababudin Planters' Association, the Wynaad Planters' Association and the Coorg Planters' Association.

In our correspondence columns we publish a letter on Coffee Markets from Mr. A. E. Stille and one from the Honorary Secretary, Coorg Planters' Association, advocating the formation of a Coffee Association.

The following letter has been forwarded to us by Mr. Mead for publication:—

Sir,—It is with the deepest regret that I have received news of the death of Captain E. G. Pitcairn (Black Watch) of pneumonia, in France, on the 6th October.

Captain Pitcairn joined the Black Watch early in the War and saw much service on the Western and Salonika fronts. He was at Loos where he was gassed.

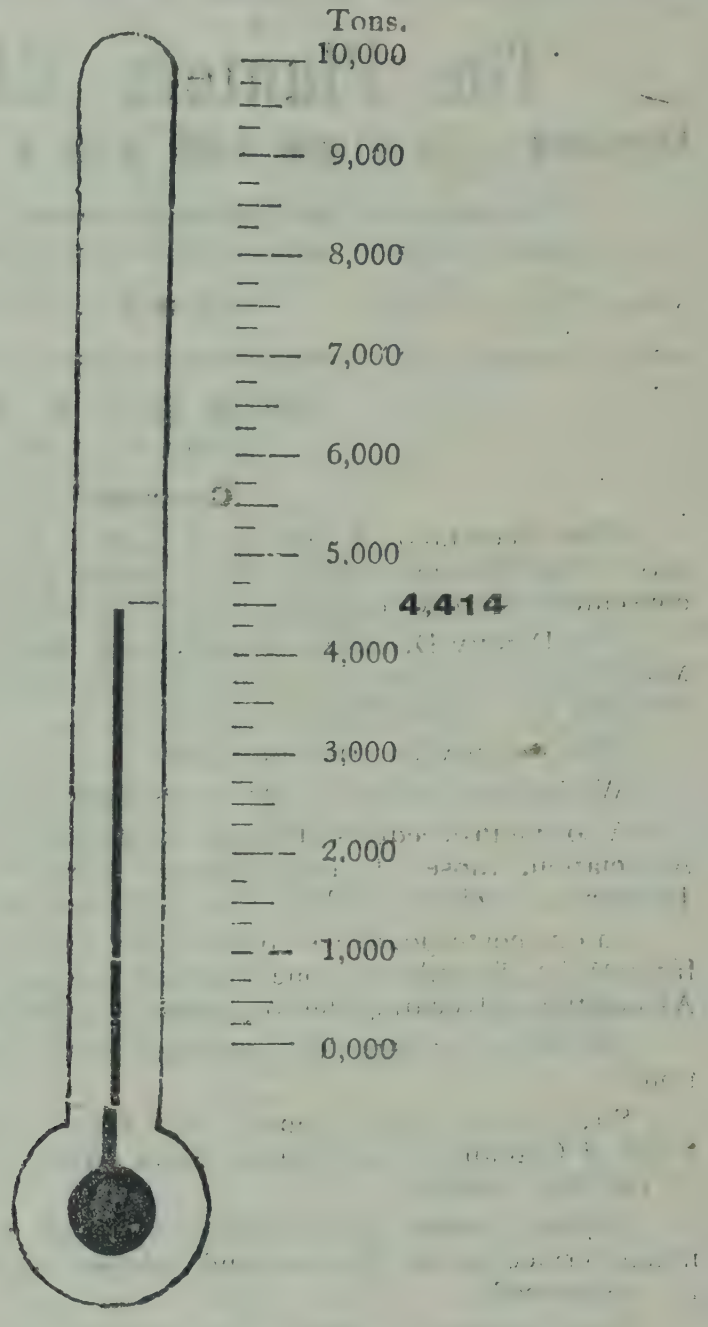
He will be mourned by his many friends and especially by those of the Mooply Valley who knew, him amongst whom he was universally popular and respected.

Much sympathy will be felt for his twin brother who is an officer in the H. L. I. at Bangalore.

S. I. PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	RS.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged ...	84,280	10	3
Mr. J. Carless	5	0	0
Mr. J. Harding Pascoe	25	0	0
Total ...	84,310	10	3

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 50 per cwt. for Parchment and Rs. 40 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) amounts to date to **4,414** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Deputy Director's Tour in Coorg.

Passing through Coffee Estates one constantly sees patches, sometimes small, sometimes large, more or less well defined as a rule, where the coffee looks sickly; primaries have died leaving trees with a poor frame work the branches of individuals do not touch, and the soil is exposed. Such patches are often badly attacked by leaf disease and their area and extent is apt to spread. In fact if they are carefully watched it will be found in the majority of cases that they do spread over a wider and wider area each year, and every stage may be found from the initial one where only a few trees are involved to the final one which may involve a whole estate. The problem of how to restore such patches to health is a serious and a difficult one.

Such patches are very often associated with the presence of a bad shade tree in the first place, more especially the Attie. When this tree reaches a certain size and age in this district the coffee beneath it begins to deteriorate. The tree is often then cut down, but still the trouble continues.

If we look at a chemical analysis of the soil of the district of South Coorg we see nothing particularly noticeable about it except that it is deficient, as most South Indian soils are, in lime, and somewhat lacking in available phosphoric acid. When we turn to a mechanical analysis, however, we get a good deal of information which, I venture to think, explains to a great extent the cause of these patches, and this information should be of help in avoiding their occurrence in the future.

A typical mechanical analysis is the following:—

Moisture	... 2·34
Organic matter	... 8·40
Calcium carbonate	... 0·06
Fine gravel	... 12·57
Coarse sand	... 9·47
Medium sand	... 9·35
Fine sand	... 20·49
Silt	... 26·07
Clay	... 10·76

It will be noted that the finer particles preponderate, and the silt and fine sand together comprise the greater part of the mineral constituents while there is also 10·7 per cent of clay. The soil sample of which this is an analysis was not taken from a particularly bad patch; had it been, this preponderance of fine particles, especially the presence of silt and clay would have been still more marked.

Now a soil of this type drains very slowly and is very apt to become sour unless thoroughly aerated, and herein I think lies the trouble. The Attie tree as it grows big fills the soil with its roots and still more dries it out and upsets its drainage and aeration and the consequence is it becomes sour and loses all its tilth and the coffee begins to suffer. Then the tree is cut down and the stump left in situ to rot and we have every condition present in favour of root disease producing fungi, lots of decaying organic matter in the Attie roots, and acidity. Consequently the coffee roots are attacked by disease and the trees become still more sickly, some of them perhaps dying. In this condition they are susceptible to leaf disease and fail to recover from its ravages, and each year get a little worse until they are past recovery.

In nearly every one, if not in every one, of the bad patches which I saw I noticed numbers of dead and rotting stumps of shade trees which had been cut out at one time or another. Moreover I noticed in many cases that drains had been dug showing that some manager at some time had thought

the drainage and aeration was wrong. He was on the right lines but did not tackle the situation soon enough.

Prevention in this case is better than cure. As soon as ever the coffee begins to look sickly on soils of this type three things should be looked to very carefully at once:—

(1) the drainage system: this should be thorough and deep.
(2) the soil aeration: improved by drains and possibly cultivation.
(3) the soil acidity; the necessity for large applications of lime.

(1) and (2) may necessitate the removal of bad and big overgrown shade trees especially old Atties, and if this is the case their stumps should be removed if possible. If this cannot be done the stumps should be isolated by trenches and as many of the side roots removed as soon as possible so as to prevent the attacks of root disease and to open up and aerate the soil. Expense is involved but nothing like the expenditure necessary to bring a bad patch back into bearing.

Now let us turn to the treatment of the existing bad patches, where the damage has already been done. The first step is to define them and isolate them from the rest of the coffee by means of trenches to prevent them from spreading further and confine them as far as may be to their present limits till they can be systematically tackled.

With regard to these patches the first point which I want to make clear is that *it is not a bit of good applying manures to soil which is in a wrong mechanical condition and sanitary condition.* The mechanical condition must first be put right and then the soil will respond to manures.

In the large majority of cases and in all the really bad ones where root disease is present nothing will make good trees of the existing coffee as it stands, each stem with only one or perhaps two primaries left. The best thing to do, in my opinion, is to make a clean sweep. Grub out the really bad trees, stump down the better ones, remove altogether the bad shade taking out the stumps and roots, trench the land right through as deeply as possible, the depth being limited only by the sub-soil, get out all the decaying roots, lime the patch thoroughly and heavily at a ton an acre at least and two tons if possible, put drains through it, and replant the shade and coffee.

This is an expensive programme no doubt, but by no other means that I can suggest is the coffee likely to recover. I would suggest that the work be looked on as quite separate work to that done on the rest of the estate and that it be separately estimated for, supervised, and carried out, a definite area being tackled each year, and thus the bad patches gradually reclaimed. They will recover slowly and for several years, 3 to 5 will need special treatment as distinct from the rest of the estate. Thus the second and third year cultivation will be advisable to keep the soil open, a second dose of lime may be needed in the third or fourth year, and a good dose of cattle manure or fish guano should be applied in the second year, a mulch should be established and a green dressing used, while the young shade and the temporary shade will need careful regulation.

In some cases where the bad patches have not gone too far, a system of stumping would, I feel sure, be effective and beneficial. In carrying out the work it is essential to "go the whole hog;" no half measures will be successful. Remove *all* the old shade, roots, stumps, and stems, dig, lime and manure and do the work just as thoroughly and well as it can possibly be done.

The bad patches are, I maintain, the final result of an accumulation of unfavourable conditions, beginning with bad mechanical condition of the soil followed by root disease borer, successive attacks of leaf disease, mealy-bug, cock-chafer, etc. Each plays its part no doubt and the result is the gradual death of the coffee. To bring back such patches into cultivation is

slow and tedious work. Three essentials are necessary, work, patience and money. The first thing is to demarcate and isolate the patches, the next to restore favourable mechanical conditions to the soil by every means that can be thought of, cultivation, drainage, liming, supply of organic matter, good shade. Finally manure; but this is the last step when other points have been rectified. No manures ever dreamed of will restore some of the trees in these patches to health and bearing, trees which have lost their frame, their root system, and their vigour. Manures simply induce a spurious growth of roots from the collar, the tree puts on a little spurt of foliage, mealy-bug comes along, or drought followed by leaf disease and back the tree goes again. It is better to spend the money on a drastic system of renovation instead of wasting it year after year in tinkering at a bad job.

I therefore venture to suggest the adoption of the following definite plan of action. The figures of cost are more or less guess work, but are inserted to indicate what I mean and will have to be adjusted from practical experience. Suppose for the sake of my argument that it is decided to spend the sum of Rs. 10,000 per annum on special work devoted to the restoration of patches. Then the following scheme shows how the work and expenditure might be arranged over a series of years.

Area treated.	Year 1.	Year 2.	Year 3.	Year 4.	Year 5.	Year 6.
100 ac.	at 100/-	at 50/-	at 30/-	at 25/-	Taken into ordinary estate as restored.	
	10,000	5,000	3,000	2,500		
50 ac.	...	at 100/-	at 50/-	at 30/-	at 25/-	Taken into estate.
		5,000	2.500	1,500	1,250	
45 ac.	...	...	at 100/-	at 50/-	at 30/-	at 25/-
			4,500	2,250	1,350	1,120
37 ac.	...	...	...	at 100/-	at 50/-	at 30/-
				3,700	1,850	1,710
55 ac.	...	...	...	...	at 100/-	at 50/-
					5,500	2.750
44 ac.	...	...	...	...	...	at 100/-
Etc.						4,400
331 ac.	10,000	10,000	10,000	9,950	9,950	9,980

The question of the growing of supplies is very much bound up with this question of bad patches. Soil of the type already considered, which contains a lot of clay is very easily puddled, and it will be found that a very large proportion of the supplies which fail to grow have turned tap roots. The number in this condition is far too large to be accounted for by the usual explanation of this mishap. What has happened is that the pits are filled in the wet weather and in planting them however carefully this is done the soil has been puddled. With the advent of any dry weather the puddled soil at the bottom of the pit sets hard like a brick, the tap root strikes it and is unable to penetrate and so turns. In some cases I have seen supplies which have been basket plants which can be pulled out of the pits with the basket soil clinging round them and all the roots confined to it as if they had been put in a pot, so badly is the soil puddled all round them. In soils of

this kind so apt to puddle I strongly advocate that the pits should be filled in the dry weather to avoid this contingency.

A certain number of supplies fail to come on because they are attacked by mealy-bug or cockchafer, but the majority which I saw had turned tap roots for the reason stated above. The secret of success with supplies in these soils lies in making big pits, filling them in the dry weather using as much leaf mould in the filling as possible to keep the soil open and light, and in only putting out big and really good well grown plants.

Soils of the type under consideration which occur so generally in the district need careful attention to several points. First as regards cultivation and the vexed question of digging. Ordinarily one would say that this type of soil needs frequent cultivation, the disadvantage lying in the fact that in the process the roots of the coffee are cut and into the roots thus wounded fungi and mealy-bug get. It is a choice of evils and the happy mean should be aimed at. Where the soil gets out of condition and cakes hard in the hot weather digging undoubtedly becomes necessary, but I would never advocate the digging of good coffee just for the sake of digging. Moreover I would advise a hot weather light dig to establish an earth mulch to prevent the rapid drying out of the top layers of soil. This point was dealt with in a lecture delivered in Coorg in November 1912. I would deprecate any form of digging while the coffee roots are actively growing.

As I have said before it is most important to keep the soil in good mechanical condition and it is no good applying manures to a soil in bad tilth. There is no doubt in my mind that these soils are over and over again suffering from acidity and they should be regularly and heavily limed.

The application of lime alone will not, however, keep soils of the type, under consideration in good tilth. The most essential thing of all is a constant and plentiful supply of organic matter to keep them open and aerated. I note with satisfaction that a great deal of use is being made of Dadap for this purpose, but at the same time I think more use might be made of annual green dressings. The soil has a great tendency I notice to grow rank grasses and these must do a great deal of harm to the coffee feeding roots. I would suggest the establishment of a cover of a green dressing with the double purpose of smothering out the grass and supplying organic matter so much needed by the soil. Further I would suggest the use of Cassia hirsuta for the purpose, a weed which grows very abundantly in the district and is to be seen along all the road sides. Thls makes an excellent cover crop, is easily kept in control, and supplies a large quantity of green material. An analysis made of the plant showed it to contain 2·27 per cent of nitrogen in the sun-dried material so that 1,000 lbs. are equivalent to a dressing of 378 lbs. of white castor poonac no mean manurial item. It should be cut as soon as it begins to flower and either used as a mulch or buried in if cultivation is being done. It might be grown in all open spaces and wherever grass or weeds will grow.

Once the soil is in good mechanical condition it will respond readily to manure. The main deficiency is in available phosphoric acid and the types of manure recommended are fish guano to supply nitrogen and organic matter as well as phosphoric acid and fertilisers like basic superphosphate, basic slag, and basic bone superphosphate together with bone meal. Basic fertilisers should always be used as the soil has a tendency to become acid and is naturally deficient in lime content. Nitrolim when it again becomes available will also probably have a good effect on these soils.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at the Travellers' Bungalow, Saklaspur, on 3rd October, 1918.

PRESENT. Messrs. C. Lake (President), T. Anderson, J. G. H. Crawford, A. Durham, F. M. Hamilton, St. John Hunt, E. V. Hunt, E. W. Rutherford, P. F. X. Saldanha, K. T. Seshaiya, C. J. Hayward (Honorary Secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were passed.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—The delegates to the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. opened the discussion on the proceedings and after explanations had been given, the meeting expressed itself in favour of the proposals. The members elected to serve on the General Committee of the re-organised U. P. A. S. I. were Messrs C. Lake and C. J. Hayward.

COFFEE CESS.—The following resolution was carried:—That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be asked to write to the Director of Agriculture, Madras, asking him to take up the matter of the Government imposing a compulsory cess of Rs. 5 per ton on all exported coffee.

The scheme for pushing the sale of Indian Coffee in India and neighbouring countries with the aid of Messrs. G. Payne and Co. of Calcutta, was discussed, and Mr. Hayward was asked to represent the Association at the meeting in Bangalore on October 7th.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF COFFEE.—The following resolution was carried "That the Honorary Secretary be asked to address the Honorary Secretaries of all Coffee Associations asking for their support to the proposal that Public Auctions of Coffee be held in all curing and selling centres and that the results of the same be published in the *Planters' Chronicle* weekly."

That, with the view to getting the proposal adopted, a deputation of Coffee Planters be appointed and asked to arrange a meeting with the Coast curing Agents in Mangalore at an early date.

Proposed by J. G. H. Crawford.

Seconded by P. F. X. Saldanha.

FIXING MINIMUM PRICE OF COFFEE.—A lengthy discussion took place on this subject and the result of the N. M. P. A. Meeting was explained and the following resolutions were carried:—

i. "That this meeting is in sympathy with the proposed agreement in regard to the stabilisation of coffee prices provided that coffee Planters representing 75% of the total coffee crop will join."

Proposed by J. G. H. Crawford.

Seconded by A. Durham.

ii. "Proposed that the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be asked to write to all curing and selling Firms to write to their constituents pointing out the advantages of holding out for Rs. 200 and Rs. 250 per candy for pounded and parchment coffee, respectively."

Proposed by J. G. H. Crawford.

Seconded by F. M. Hamilton.

GREEK GOVERNMENT CONTRACT.—The Secretary of the U. P. A's letter, dated 20th September, *re* damaged coffee was gone into and the following resolution carried.

"This Association deeply deplores the fact that a wrangle has occurred over the coffee that was despatched in fulfilment of the Greek Government order, it suggests that if in the future we have contracts offered us, we should appoint a representative to inspect all coffee delivered to see that everything is in order, or the enlarging of our markets will be greatly compromised."

HIGH PRICE OF GRAIN.—The Association's representative to the Dassara was requested to interview the Dewan and point out the urgent necessity of prohibiting the export of grain now, as well as in regards to the coming crops and the advisability of making timely arrangements for the import of grains.

ROADS.—The Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the Executive Engineer of the Hassan District and point out the following roads as requiring his immediate attention.

Chickanhully—Arehalli—Saklaspur Road miles 7 to 17.

Bicode to Arehalli, miles 1 to 5.

The Meeting approved Rs. 300 being paid the Association's Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. and Rs. 75 to the Delegate to Bangalore.

The Meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) C. LAKE,
President, S. M. P. A.
(„) C. J. HAYWARD,
Honorary Secretary.

Bababudin Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting, held at Santaveri, on October 15th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. A.C.W. Denne (President), F. Hugonin (Vice-President), C. Sylk, S. J. Wilson, J. Porter, C. Courpalais. (*By proxy*).—H. Kerr (Honorary Secretary).

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read.

1. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.—One of the most important matters to Planters of S. India during the past year was the settling about the Reorganisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and the Labour Department, and it is satisfactory that all Associations are agreed on the matter and that Coffee will have to pay Re. 1 per acre to start with, with a rise of not more than 2 annas per acre after 3 months notice, if found necessary, all details will be found in the Book of Proceedings to be issued shortly.—The B. P. A. instructed its Delegate to vote up to Rs. 1/5, I regret I was unable to be present at the Annual Meeting held in Madras, but I was unwell.

The Labour Department in Mysore is becoming more efficient each year, this is due to the organisation of Mr. Aylmer Martin the Director, and the energy of Mr. C. C. Kent the Superintendent in Mysore. I can only speak of the Mysore Department. I know nothing about the others. There is no doubt many Planters realise the advantage it is to have the Labour Department to refer to when new and unknown Maistries apply for advances, and Maistries are beginning to see that they can get much assistance in arresting absconding coolies who previously had managed to dodge warrants sent for their arrest. This is likely to keep rogues from applying for advances.

Another very important subject is the suggested Cess on Coffee exported from India of 2 annas a maund to push the sales of coffee in India and the East. If sufficient money can be raised Planters should in a few years greatly benefit by increased prices.

I hope the majority of Coffee Planters will agree not to sell in this country, Parchment this season below Rs. 50 per cwt. and native coffee below Rs. 200 per candy of 20 maunds. These figures still leave by far the greater profit to the middleman.

Thanks to the assistance received from Government and the Army Authorities last season, Coffee Planters managed to dispose of a large portion of their crop and what at one time looked like being a very disastrous year turned out fairly well, our thanks are also due to Mr. Brooke-Mockett and the British Empire Producers' Association in England, the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. and Planting Member as well as the Members of the various deputations to Delhi and Madras, etc.

The coming crop in South India is estimated at 12,000 tons which is much more than last season, and I hope we shall be able to dispose of it at a fair rate. Bababudin crops which were heavy last year are only moderate for the coming one.

With the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. it appears to me that it will be necessary to amalgamate our Association, with both the other Associations if possible into one strong Association for the whole of Mysore, or if the other Association cannot arrange to amalgamate together, to amalgamate with either the North or South. The reasons for this, are that it will make for far greater efficiency and economy and also help to avoid misunderstandings and much waste of time in correspondence between the various Associations. I think we could probably arrange to have a Bababudin section of the Association and hold a local meeting before the Association Meeting to discuss the Agenda and then send Delegates to the Association Meeting or send up the results of our deliberations on the agenda.

The rise in price of Ragi and Rice caused by the failure of the S. W. Monsoon is very serious. Your Honorary Secretary wrote to the Deputy Commissioner on the subject of supplies and since then the Controller of Supplies in Mysore has been in Chickmaglur and I hope will arrange for supplies for all our markets. I regret he could not have let us know in advance he was coming so that we could have sent a representative to interview him. The Honorary Secretary only heard in the afternoon of the day he held a meeting in Chickmaglur and then there was no time for any one to meet him.

We have to sympathise with the Rubber Planters that Rubber has been removed from the priority list and hope it will soon be placed on that list again, also that restriction of import with the U. S. A. will soon be removed.

I hope the Tea Planters will be successful in getting the Government of India to prohibit the amount of cheap Java and other teas imported into India, and so facilitate the sale in India of the balance of their crops.

I have to thank the present and late Honorary Secretaries for the assistance they have given me during the year and I now place my resignation in your hands.

2. THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.—Gentlemen,—The number of estates on the register is 25 comprising 5,550 acres, at the end of the financial year there were two estates with a total subscription of Rs. 231-10-0 in arrears, but they have since paid up.

ACCOUNTS.—Before you are all the books of the Association. Financially we are in a sound position, having at our credit on June 30th after meeting all liabilities Rs. 4,306-11-11, of this sum Rs. 2,548-15-10 are

invested in War Bonds and Rs. 1,000 on Fixed Deposit, leaving a balance of Rs. 758-6-1 standing to the credit of the Association with the National Bank of India Ltd., Madras. Since June 30th the fixed deposit having fallen due, this also has been invested in War Bonds. Gentlemen, I now beg to place my resignation in your hands.

3. REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE U. P. A. S. I.—The report was read by the Delegate and gave an interesting résumé of matters that particularly interested us.

Mr. Hugonin proposed and Mr. Wilson seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Kerr for representing the Association.

4. AMALGAMATION.—The following suggestion was unanimously passed. "That the 3 Mysore Planters' Associations do combine and form a United Mysore Planters' Association, as such will conduce not only to economy, but to a greater efficiency and do away with the loss of time now incurred when matters of urgency are referred from one Association to another."

5. COFFEE CESS.—A voluntary cess of Rs. 10 per ton was unanimously agreed to, of this year's crop, acreage representing 550 tons definitely and 40 tons provisionally promising to join. It was the opinion of the Meeting that if a success, Government be requested to impose a Cess of Rs. 5 a ton.

6. CONTROLLING PRICES.—It was unanimously agreed that by this scheme we stand to gain more, and that immediately, than any other proposition. The following resolutions were carried:—

1. That a reduction of Re. 1 a maund be allowed for Local sales in Chickmaglur and Tarikere Taluks.
2. Balance of last year's crop exempt.
3. The combination to remain in force until the end of season.
4. If the Army are buying coffee this year our minimum rates are Rs. 45 per cwt. for sound beans C. I. F., Madras, at Beach Station in Army Bags.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.—

1. Circular letter from Secretary U. P. A. S. I. re 180 bags of coffee supplied to the Greek Government.
2. Letter from the Economic Superintendent re supplies of Ragi for coolies.
3. Letter from the Secretary, South Mysore Planters' Association *re* Public Auctions of Coffee to be held in Mangalore.
4. Letters *re* Kulhutipur Save Road.

Correspondence on the above 4 subjects was read and discussed.

8. ELECTION OF DELEGATES FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE U. P. A. S. I.—Messrs. Denne and Kerr were elected to represent the Association.

OFFICE BEARERS.—

A. C. W. Denne	...	President.
T. Hugonin	...	Vice-President.
H. Kerr	...	Honorary Secretary.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the President and Honorary Secretary.

(Signed) H. KERR,
Honorary Secretary.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on 16th October, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Bisset, Eyre, Lobban, Macleod, Mackay, Malcolm, Powell and Abbott (Honorary Secretary).

MR. MALCOLM IN THE CHAIR.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAST MEETING were confirmed. It was noted that Mr. Eyre's name had been omitted from the printed list of those present.

2405. ENDORSING WARRANTS.—Read letter from Mr. Windle D. S. P., South Malabar, asking to be furnished with a list of those authorised to endorse warrants in the absence of Superintendents and Honorary Secretary's reply. Resolved that Members are asked to send these names to the Honorary Secretary who will forward them to Mr. Windle.

2406. PIECE WORK CONTRACTS.—Read letters from Honorary Secretary to Mr. Whitton and letters from Mr. Whitton and Mr. Waddington. It was decided that the Association saw no objection to the course proposed by Mr. Whitton and confirmed the Honorary Secretary's letter to this effect.

2407. STATISTICS.—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to the Deputy Collector Mr. K. N. Choyikutti and his acknowledgment. Since the Meeting the Deputy Collector has sent a list of 31 Estates from which the return respecting tea acreage yield, and the number of coolies employed has been called for. Four estates have not sent in the return. The Honorary Secretary is enquiring about these.

2408. SUBSCRIPTION TO WYNAAD, P. A.—It was agreed that the subscription from January 1st 1919, be at the rate of 2 annas per acre that the personal subscription be done away with and that the voting be on the basis of 1 vote for 100 acres or the major portion of 100 acres. Messrs. Eyre, Gwynne and Abbott were appointed a Committee to revise the rules in accordance with the above and to report to the next Meeting.

2409. DELEGATES to U. P. A. S. I.—Mr. Malcolm and Mr. Abbott, Honorary Secretary, were elected.

2410. GRAIN SHORTAGE.—This matter was discussed with reference to the restriction of export from Mysore. There appears to be a considerable supply of ragi from local sources. Mr. Eyre said that he had represented the Association at the Grain Meeting in Calicut and gave a report of what had occurred. He was thanked for his services.

2411. POST OFFICE.—Thefts or losses of newspapers. Numerous complaints were made as to the loss of daily papers. There have been cases in which a subscriber failed to receive two or three copies in a week. There have been days when hardly a single copy of the *Madras Mail* has reached the District. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to address the Postmaster-General.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) B. MALCOLM,
Chairman.
(„) C. E. ABBOTT,
Honorary Secretary.

Coorg Planters' Association.

Minutes of Quarterly General Meeting of the Coorg Planters' Association, held at the Bamboo Club, Pollibetta, on the 23rd October, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. G. K. Martin (in the Chair), E. L. Mahon, N. M. Scholfield, W. R. Wright, H. T. Shaw, R. Hamilton, P. G. Tipping, H. W. Sheldrick, H. M. Mann, F. W. Gerrard, G. R. Pearse, F. Macrae, A. W. F. Bracken, A. H. Jackson, W. M. Ball, C. G. Maclean, and A. J. Wright, (Honorary Secretary).

The Secretary read the Notice convening the Meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 17th July last were confirmed.

Mr. Tipping read the Delegates' Report to the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting in Madras, as follows :—

JUBILEE YEAR.

Report of the Delegates to the U.P.A.S.I. Conference held in Madras, August 1918.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—From published reports of the Conference you know that the Re-organisation of the U.P.A.S.I. is *fait accompli* on the general lines of the Control Committee's draft scheme.

That so many controversial issues could have been settled at a meeting of such short duration, proves the value of such Conferences, if it does nothing else.

Interested onlookers were much impressed by the prevailing good feeling and the temperate and good natured way in which hard knocks were given and taken.

It was regretted that the all important matter of Re-organisation had to be considered and settled during these times of difficulty and retrenchment, but this makes the result more gratifying, and the whole planting Community is to be congratulated on the conclusions arrived at, which cannot fail to bind us more closely and firmly together and will help us in meeting and overcoming every difficulty and obstacle that may confront us in the future. It is a privilege to attend such meetings and to meet those who are sent to represent the various districts and products, and to carry away the impression of that friendly give and take spirit which was exhibited in settling all issues.

The following resolutions were brought up by your delegates and met with a good reception and unanimous support, Nos. 3, 8, 11 and 20. Your delegates made it clear that you wished the Annual General Meeting to be held in Bangalore.

Regarding the period of Guarantee, with the exception of your delegates, all voted for a 5 years period. In the matter of suspending a rule of the S. I. P. B. Fund in order to make a large charitable grant from that fund, we think the meeting was swayed by sentiment, and that the result that such action must have on the future welfare of the Fund was not duly considered, though Sir Fairless Barber invited the attention of delegates to that aspect of the question, and your delegates spoke against the grant. When the matter was put to the meeting the vote with the single exception of Coorg was in favor of the resolution.

Scientific Department and Experimental Stations :—

Whilst in Madras the Committee appointed last year to go into the question of the Experimental Stations, met and consulted with the Director of Agriculture and Mr. Anstead, and you will be pleased to hear that a telegram to proceed with the buildings has since been received, and it will not now be long before this important branch of the Scientific Department begins its work. We were also present at a Coffee Planters' gathering when Mr. Stille of Messrs. George Payne & Co. made an offer, which you have all seen, to push the sale of coffee. Other Coffee Associations have already been considering both this and the suggested Coffee combine, and we would recommend both subjects to your very careful consideration. We will not detain you listening to a recapitulation of the whole proceedings, but shall be glad to answer questions on matters about which you require information. The main points of re-organisation recommended by the Select Committee are available if you wish them read out. We might here say that the full report has already been edited and is in the hands of the Printers and should be issued very shortly, and we hope every member will register his name for a copy.

There is just one other matter and very pleasant one which we would like to refer to, and that is the kind and hospitable manner in which we were received and treated in Madras, than which nothing could have been pleasanter.

When there was doubt of Madras Hotels affording the required accommodation Sir Gordon Fraser and the Chamber of Commerce arranged for the billeting of 40 delegates and were kind enough to express regret that a larger number of us did not avail ourselves of their hospitality. During our visit we were all made Honorary members of the Club.

Sir Bernard Hunter placed the Bank of Madras fine new building in Mount Road at our disposal during the Conference. This was a great convenience, being spacious, cool, and central.

We would ask, you Gentlemen, to pass a hearty vote of thanks and appreciation to these Gentlemen and others that extended so kindly a welcome to us all.

P. G. TIPPING,

E. L. MAHON,

A discussion on the Resolutions, generally, followed, and questions were answered on several subjects, the British Empire Producers' Organisation receiving chief attention. Its aims and objects were fully explained. The Delegates explained that there had been some misunderstanding in the matter of subscription, which was £100 per annum to the B. E. P. O. This year this sum would be collected from the District Associations, *pro rata*. In future, the reconstructed U.P.A.S.I. would pay it.

In the matter of the S. I. P. B. F. and the late grant, in so large a sum being apportioned without sufficient cause being shown, the meeting unanimously and strongly supported Mr. Tipping's protest, and considered a good case had not been made. The suspension of a Rule in one instance was likely to lead to other special "cases." The fund was subscribed to for a certain definite object which should be adhered to.

The meeting wished to place on record their great appreciation of the kind and hearty hospitality that Sir Gordon Fraser, Sir Bernard Hunter and many other of our Madras friends had shown all Delegates to the Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I.

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U.P.A.S.I. LABOUR DEPARTMENT.—The discussion on this subject was animated and prolonged. Our Association accepts the organisation, but wished it to be distinctly understood that many members are joining on the condition that this department shall be run as well and efficiently in the future as in the past. Some members are holding back for fear this may not be the case, and all members would still wish to see the department under a separate head.

Unless the Labour Department is well served, and the control and supply of our labour be assured, the services of the Scientific Department will to some extent be nullified.

As regards the funds of subscribers to the old Department to be placed to the New, Mr. Macrae spoke to the following Resolution.

"That in the opinion of this meeting, when the re-organised U. P. A. begins, as such, from the First of January 1919, the present Department ceases to exist as on the 31st December current.

This being so, any surplus funds from the old Department—after all expenditure incurred up to that date has been met—should be credited to the subscribers only (of the old Department), and NOT to the re-organised Association as a Body.

The point that certain extra items of expenditure will be entailed by the new organisation up to the end of June next does not, in the opinion of this meeting, justify any portion of the above mentioned surplus being used for the purpose of meeting these.

In other words, the new organisation should be self-supporting absolutely from the date of its inauguration."

This was supported by Mr. Maclean, and carried unanimously.

Discussion of other features of the new U. P. A. were gone into and generally accepted.

REORGANISATION OF THE COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—This having been fully discussed at the last meeting, progress was good. There were still members who regretted to see the old order pass away, and wished for the "one man, one vote."

Mr. Mahon, seconded by Mr. Macrae, proposed.

1. "That the re-organised C. P. A. be formed of Proprietors and or their direct representatives, whose subscriptions shall be on the acreage basis."

"Personal Members, not qualified as above, and who are now members of the Association, shall continue to have all the privileges of the Association and to have one vote, paying Rs. 12 per annum."

"Future members shall be balloted for, and after election, subscribe to one or other of the above named classes."

This was carried unanimously.

2. "That the Powers of voting over and above the personal vote, be restricted to one vote for every unit of 400 acres or under.

"Voting for office-bearers shall be determined by one vote per aggregate unit of 1500 acres or under, made up from the entire subscribing acreage belonging to, or in charge of, any individual member of the Association residing in India."

(It was explained that this latter clause was brought in to prevent the votes of any big Concern swamping the votes of smaller members, either now or in the future, by outvoting them. An instance was given as to how smaller acreages were safeguarded.)

On No. 2 Mr. Ball proposed an amendment—That the clause "Voting for office bearers," etc. to the end "be eliminated." This being put to the meeting was lost. Then Mr. Mahon's second proposition was put to the meeting and carried.

3. "Election of Delegates.

"In election of Delegates to represent the Coorg Planters' Association on the Committee of the U. P. A. S. I., one to be chosen from North Coorg and one from South."—Carried.

The Secretary was instructed to ask North and South Committees, each to nominate one or more members who would act, and on receiving the names to send out balloting papers to all members.

Mr. Mann's proposition discussed at the last meeting,—"That every member who puts acreage on the C, P. A. shall have a personal vote in addition to his acreage vote or votes" was carried.

INCORPORATION OF THE C. P. A. and the advantages connected with Incorporation, as against our present position (a body of individuals), were gone into. Members considered, in view of the new order of affairs, incorporation was necessary.

Mr. Tipping explained the cost would be about Rs 300, and that the U.P.A. had the matter under consideration with their Solicitors. Under these circumstances it was thought well to wait till the information was forthcoming. When to hand, the Secretary circulate it, and then if necessary call an Extraordinary meeting to go into the subject.

FIXING OF COFFEE PRICE.—The Secretary read a copy of a circular letter sent to the Curing Firms, asking them to co-operate with the Planters in fixing Rs 50 per cwt. F. O. B. for Parchment and Rs. 200 per Candy, (the Candy weight not given), and replies thereto.

Regrets were expressed that the Curing Firms could not see their way to giving us a stronger support, but in view of the uncertainty as to the actual strength of the coffee position in India, which it appears is only based on opinion and conjecture, unsupported by reliable statistics, we are not altogether prepared to condemn their attitude. Doubt was expressed as to the utility of imposing two binding restrictions in the matter of fixing prices, but it was considered advisable to send in names as quickly, and in as great a number as possible in support of the *Chronicle's* Barometer, in

the hope that if found to be very strongly backed up, the movement may influence the market, encourage Firms to be firmer and stop panic ; in this way to stabilise the market. Several members present said they would send in their names at once.

GREEK DAMAGED COFFEE.—While regretting the damage done to the coffee, the meeting after considering the matter from various points of view, came to the conclusion that not knowing the exact position of affairs, nor the conditions under which it was taken over by the Greek Government from the Curers etc. did not see that we were in a position to interfere, and thought it advisable to let the settlement proceed through the recognised business channels. We, as Planters do not feel to blame.

which it was taken over by the Greek Government from the Curers, etc. did not see that we were in a position to interfere, and thought it advisable to let the settlement proceed through the recognised business channels. We, as Planters do not feel to blame.

PROPOSED COFFEE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—Mr. Tipping introduced this subject. In the course of his speech, he spoke of the success of the Mysore Conference ; the absolute need of Coffee Planters to meet at least once a year before the U. P. A. meeting to discuss matters especially concerning coffee ; and generally to fix a scheme for Coffee Districts to work together ; and to present their interests in a united body to the U. P. A. or to Business Firms, and not, as at present, as divided units.

Now, Delegates meet without any opportunity of consulting together and obtaining a consensus of opinion as to the best policy to be pursued.

The cost of such an Association would be very small an annual subscription of, say, Rs. 30 to 40 from each Association or on an acreage basis.

The members elected to represent the Coffee Associations on the U. P. A. might form a Committee, and an Honorary Secretary be elected from their number.

This proposal was heartily endorsed, and met with unanimous approval.

GENERAL—SOUTH COORG PEPPER STEALING PREVENTION FUND.—The Secretary pointed out that the wrong accounts had been printed, and there was a balance of Rs. 9/2/- due by the Fund.

A note on Influenza by Lt.-Col. E. Hasell Wright was recorded with thanks.

The meeting wish to record the great services rendered to our Association by our Commissioner, Mr. Hannyngton, I. C. S. and also of the very good work done by our Executive Engineer, Mr. A. Vipon, during the short time he has been with us. The Secretary was instructed to write to these gentlemen accordingly.

The meeting ended.

(Signed) G. K. MARTIN,
President.

(„) A. J. WRIGHT,
Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Coffee Markets.

C. J. HAYWARD, ESQ., 14th October, 1918.
Saklaspur P. O.,
Hassan District, Mysore.

Dear Sir,—As the writer promised we give you herewith the suggestions which we left with your delegates at Bangalore after the discussion we had about a Coffee Cess.

As far as an increase of the consumption of Coffee in India was concerned, it was generally agreed that in view of the comparative high price at which Coffee must be sold to make a propaganda worthwhile from the planters point of view, there would not be much likelihood of an increase in consumption which would justify a heavy expenditure. A good Tea can be bought in any bazaar in India at about seven annas per lb. and planters would certainly not want to supply a roasted and ground Coffee at anything like this price. Under these circumstances to attempt to largely increase the consumption of Coffee amongst Indians would be a waste of their money.

The view we put before your representatives was that it would be much more advantageous to use a cess in bringing the markets which are now open to us into more immediate touch with the Coffee Planters and, as circumstances arose to, extend this connection in other countries.

We advocated the adoption of a Cess in one of the various forms suggested by your associations and a small committee to control it, and we think that this Cess should be used for propagating the sale of South Indian Coffee, at the moment in the Persian Gulf, Mesopotamia and South Africa, and later on in Europe. We have every facility for assisting you in this direction and should be pleased to put ourselves at your disposal.

It appears to us that the chief cause of complaint which Coffee Planters have in realising the value of their produce is that they are so much in the hands of a small number of buyers, and in our opinion the reason for this is that their coffee is marketed in small towns in South India where other firms are unrepresented and where it is quite impossible to influence new business. It appears to us that it would pay Coffee Planters, not only now but after the war, to sell their Coffee in a place where the markets of the world are open to them owing to ample freight facilities and where the big Persian and Mesopotamian buyers have representatives. To our mind the best place for this purpose is Bombay.

As regards Bombay the proposition we made to your Representatives, which we confirm now, is that we would hold public auctions of South Indian Coffee in Bombay, advertise them, sample the principal buyers in all parts of the world, take delivery of the Coffee, store it and do the shipping where this was involved. If no Coffee Cess be arranged, or until one is arranged, we would be pleased to do this work at a commission of 5% on sale prices plus actual cost of cartage, handling, storing, etc. We would reduce this commission as soon as the turnover justified it. When you have a Coffee Cess available or if you are able to arrange for a voluntary one, we would be prepared to immediately charge 2% if we were allowed Rs. 1,500 from the Cess Funds per month towards the auction and establishment expenses. Even this 2% might be subsequently reduced if the figures justified it. Coffee Planters would thus continue to have all the buyers they have already and have every possibility of getting many more. The formation of a ring would become practically impossible.

There was one objection raised at the meeting to which we think it may be as well to refer again, and that was that the despatch of Coffee to Bombay would entail extra expense on the Planters. It is true that

the C. I. F. Bombay cost would be greater than the C. I. F. Mangalore cost but on the other hand the C. I. F. Bombay value to the Buyer would be greater than the C. I. F. Mangalore value and this would naturally be included in the price realised. This is apart from the fact that many more buyers would be interested and better prices beyond this should be obtained. As we pointed out at the meeting it would be very shortsighted if a Tea man in Assam thought that he would save freight by selling his Tea in Dibrugarh instead of Calcutta. He *would* save freight but he would lose much more in price. It appears to us that to realise full market prices for a commodity it must be sold in one of the big markets of the world.

There must, of course, be some considerable delay before a Cess can be arranged, if it be arranged at all, but in the meantime, we shall be very pleased to deal direct with any gardens or associations who would like to have their Coffee auctioned on a 5% basis.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

per pro GEORGE PAYNE & CO., LTD.

(Sd.) A. E. STILLE.

Coorg Planters' Association.

Karie Kollie, Mercara.

28th October, 1918.

Coffee Association.

To all Honorary Secretaries

of Coffee Planting Districts.

Dear Sirs,—I wish to draw your attention to the concluding remarks of the C. P. A. Report of Proceedings, on the proposed Coffee Planters' Association. Mr. Tipping has outlined the scheme, and in that respect I have little to add.

Those of us who were at the Mysore Conference enjoyed seeing members of other Associations and of exchanging views on all manner of topics. I am sure we went away the richer for having heard what other men think and say.

Coffee is the only Product that has no organisation for collecting statistics, embodying members for a common cause and in short having a united front to make its voice heard. In view of re-organising all round, it is time our Industry "organised."

The scheme, as outlined, leaves many points unconsidered, and I ask you, gentlemen, to interest your members in it, to fill in details, and generally to make the proposed Association a success.

Until the matter is taken over by abler hands than mine, I am prepared to receive suggestions, ideas, and above all, promises of help.

The cost is not great—the objects we hope to attain are, and to the benefit of the Coffee Planter.

I would wish to add that although it is intended to be a Coffee Association, Tea, Rubber and other Members would be heartily welcomed, and we should value their advice.

Having said so much, Gentlemen, may I now look to you for your active and early assistance?

Thanking you all in anticipation

Yours faithfully,

A. J. WRIGHT,

Honorary Secretary, C. P. A.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

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THE U. P. A. S. I.
(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Thermometer has risen to 5,854 tons which is satisfactory, but in the report of the Coffee Combine Meeting held in Mangalore, it will be seen that it was resolved that unless the mercury rises to 8,000 tons by December the 20th, the Combine should cease to exist. We have no doubt but that the requisite amount will be forthcoming before that date; but we would ask Honorary Secretaries of District Associations to get the members of their District to support it as early as possible.

We publish a report of the Combine Meeting, which we consider very satisfactory. The meeting was largely due to the energy of one of the Vice-Chairmen, U. P. A. We hope that a better understanding has been established between the Curer and the Coffee Planter. The financial support accorded by the Bank of Madras—ever ready to help—should rejoice the heart of the latter.

Our correspondence columns contain letters on Rice supplies to the Chairman which we have been requested to publish, and one from Mr. Mead on the Transmission of Silver by post. Letters are also published on the Coffee Combine from agents in reply to the South Mysore Planters' Resolution.

We publish the latest from the Rubber Growers' and South Indian Associations.

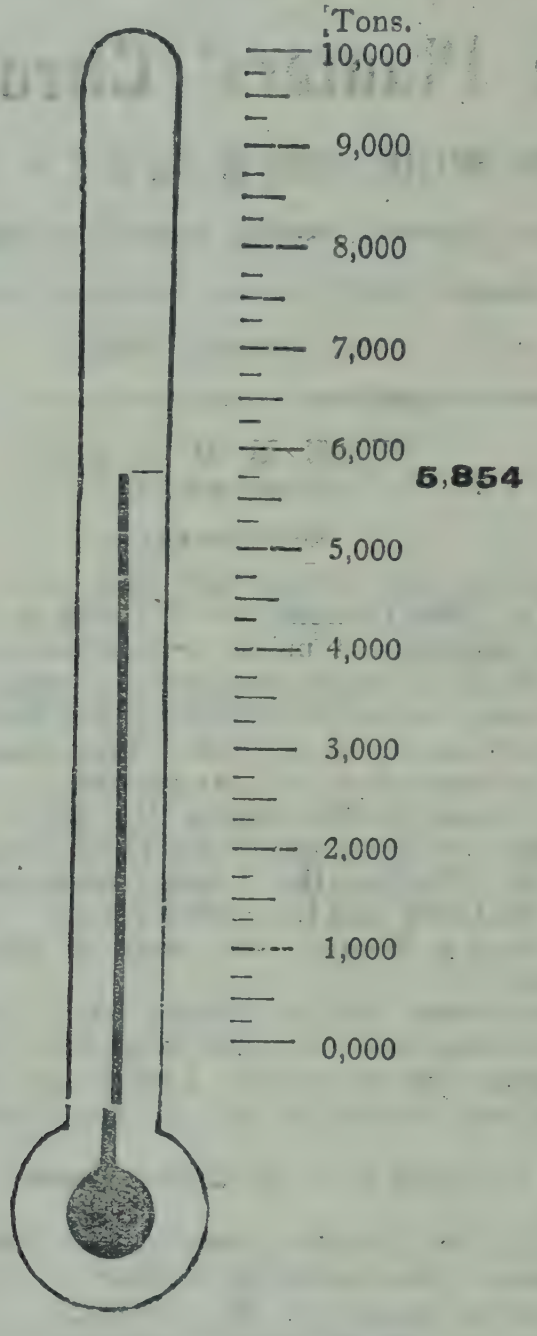
Sir Fairless Barber requests us to publish the following notice:

"With reference to the shortage of quinine on the Anamalais, would you be kind enough to mention in the *Chronicle*, that as soon as this was brought to the notice of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Cinchona), thirty lbs. were sent to the Chairman of the Anamalai Planters' Association."

S. I. PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	84,310	10	3
Messrs. Barber & Pascoe	75	0	0
Mr. Campbell Hunt	30	0	0
Mr. A. J. Wright, Munnar	20	0	0
Mr. Aylmer Ft. Martin	75	0	0
Total ...	84,510	10	3

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 50 per cwt. for Parchment and Rs. 40 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) amounts to date to **5,854** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

A COFFEE COMBINE MEETING.

A meeting of Curers and Planters was held at the office of the Labour Department in Mangalore on November 3rd to discuss the Coffee Combine and the best methods of obtaining fair prices for the coming coffee crop.

The following Curing Firms were represented :—.

Messrs. Morgan and Son, Messrs. Peirce Leslie and Co., Ltd., Messrs. A. J. Saldanha and Sons, Messrs. Volkart Brothers, The Pullicoon Curing Works, The Mamally Curing Works, Messrs. P. F. X. Saldanha and Sons, Mr. N. Venkat Rau.

The following Planters were present : —Messrs. C. H. Browne, Charles Browne and C. Lake, Vice-Chairman, U. P. A, S. I.

Mr. C. Davis, Manager of the Bank of Madras and Mr. Winterbotham—Superintendent, Labour Department, were also present at the meeting.

Mr. C. Lake was elected as Chairman and after thanking those present for attending the meeting and regretting that more planters had not been able to attend on account of the notice given being too short and the severe Influenza Epidemic prevailing in most coffee Districts, spoke as follows :—

Gentlemen,—Now that Government have come to our assistance by prohibiting the import of foreign coffees into India we feel that it is high time we bestirred ourselves and made an effort to look after our own interests in order to avoid a repetition of the chaotic state of affairs which existed last season when chiefly owing to lack of combination among ourselves, we were left at the mercy of profiteers and it was only the timely aid of Government contracts which came late in the season that saved us from throwing the bulk of our coffee away at ruinous prices.

The exclusion of outside competition gives us an unique opportunity of making a bid to obtain a fair price for our produce and we have, as you know, started a combine to fix a minimum price of Rs. 50 per cwt. for Parchment coffee and Rs. 200 per Candy for clean Native.

The tonnage on the Combine has now reached about 4,000 tons but we want it to go much higher yet to be of practical use and we have asked you to meet us here to-day, Gentlemen, as we believe that if we can enlist your active co-operation the Combine will be a success whereas without it it is difficult to see how we are to put it through.

I can only say, Gentlemen, that we look to you for all the help you can give us and I feel sure we shall not look in vain.

There are, of course, several difficulties to be got over in connection with a Combine of this sort such as space for storage, bags, funds for upkeep of Estates etc., but these can I hope be got over with your assistance and if we can make the combine sufficiently strong we shall probably not have to hold on very long. The buyers must have the coffee they require and they are bound to purchase it before the rainy season sets in.

As I said before, Gentlemen, I believe the success or otherwise of this Combine rests to some extent with you and I propose to put before you a few suggestions which appear to be desirable to make the Combine effective and by adopting which you will help us to make it so.

These are :—

(1) To join the Combine yourselves and agree not to sell at lower rates than those fixed upon.

(2) To write to all your Constituents strongly urging them not to part with their coffee at lower rates.

(4) To help those of your Constituents who are under advances to you against their crops, to hold out.

(4) To approach the less well-known Indian Agents on the Coast who deal mostly with Indian Planters in Mysore and get them to fall in line and act on these suggestions especially No. 2,

(5) To do away with the present system of private Auctions as not being conducive to healthy competition.

(6) To establish Public Austion Rooms in Mangalore and other selling centres at which all sales of coffee must take place, the results of auctions to be published weekly in the *Planters' Chronicle*.

Some of these suggestions have already been voiced by the District Associations and the feeling is now very strong that you should assist us in furthering this attempt to obtain fair prices this season.

I believe they embody the wishes of most of our Community and I hope you will carefully consider them in so far as they may be found practicable.

Mr. C. H. Browne then asked the Curers to give their views as to the prospects of sales of coffee during the coming season.

The general opinion was that prospects of selling were considerably better than last season especially taking into consideration the news of Turkey's capitulation. Mr. A. J. Saldanha, however, said that by 1st November, 1917 some 2,000 tons had been sold forward but this year there had so far been little or no inquiries.

The Curers were next asked as to what they considered the minimum amount necessary on the Combine to make it effective and the date when canvassing should close.

After a full discussion it was resolved :—

That the Combine should be in existence until December 20th and if by that date 8,000 tons had not been put on the Thermometer the Combine should cease to exsist.

Mr. Lockie next asked if the Planters were prepared to lower the minimum prices to Rs. 46 per cwt. f.o.b. for parchment coffee Rs. 39 per cwt. for Havre Standard Native.

After considerable discussion and in view of the fact that we had accepted Government contracts at Rs. 46 per cwt. last season the genera opinion of the Curers was that Rs. 45 per cwt. ex-godown would be a safe figure than Rs. 50 for Parchment coffee and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Havr Standard Native and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt, for *ungarbled Native* also ex godown.

With regard to financial arrangements to enable Planters on the Combine to hold out Mr. Davis, Manager of the Bank of Madras said that his Bank would be prepared to help Planters with advances to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs in Mangalore on their coffee valued at the above prices in order to encourage Planters to go on the Combine and that he would advance up to 75% of the value at Head Office rate of interest plus 1%.

All the Curers and Dealers present agreed to write to all the constituents pointing out the advantages of holding out for the above prices and joining in the Combine.

It was, however, considered advisable that the prices fixed above should not apply to sales of coffee intended for shipment out of Asia or to Government Contracts.

The Curers present expressed their willingness to approach the less well-known Agents and Dealers on the Coast with a view to getting them to fall in line and to write to all their constituents pointing out the advantages of this Combine.

PUBLIC AUCTION.—Considerable discussion took place on this subject and on being put to the vote it was found that the majority were against it as not being any improvement on the present system of sales.

Messrs. Lockie, King-Church and P. F. X. Saldanha were, however, in favour of giving Public Auction a trial.

It was unanimously agreed that the results of all sales of coffee be published weekly in the *Planters' Chronicle*, names of Estates being mentioned with the consent of Proprietors.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair and to Mr. Winterbothom for the loan of his office, the meeting then terminated.

(Signed) C. LAKE,
Vice-Chairman, U.P.A.S.I.

AMERICA AND RESTRICTION.

The position with regard to plantation rubber and shipments to America has not undergone any change for the better. Producers still continue to harvest rubber, apparently ignorant of the calamity ahead. Their confidence in the future of the rubber market with a surplus production in twelve months of 80,000 tons minimum raw rubber is amazing, and betokens gross ignorance of the whole position. Surely rubber growers realise that considerably less than the estimated surplus will knock the bottom out of every rubber market in the world. A surplus of 80,000 to 100,000 tons is extremely likely, if America adheres to the restrictions already announced. Such a crop must be destroyed, or it will not only lower the price to below cost of production this year, but will have a demoralising effect on prices even after the war. The loss to the revenue officials in this country will total many millions sterling. The Government and growers alike can only blame themselves if they do not promptly legislate to restrict production and give a minimum price to meet the position created by the American declaration,—*The India-Rubber Journal.*

RUBBER.

Attack on American Rubber Interests.

"TRUTH'S" INDICTMENT OF THE U. S. TRADE.

The excess raw rubber importation into the United States over and above the fixed ration has been satisfactorily explained and has provided food for much unfavourable criticism and comment in market circles. The usually well-informed financial correspondent of *Truth* this week devotes his attention to the matter, and formulates an indictment against the American rubber industry which contains the essence of the market gossip. In order to [illegible] we reproduce his remarks below, and may perhaps [illegible] that some explanation is due from the American to the British rubber industry in order that any misunderstanding may be removed and the cordial relations which have ruled for so long may be cemented.

EXCERPT FROM "TRUTH."

"It would, of course, be absurd as it is untrue to suggest that the United States Government has willingly become a party to a scheme, the object of which is to injure the British plantation industry. But that the Government import restrictions are being used to that end by a powerful and astute body of American manufacturers I have not the slightest doubt. For years it has been well known to the leaders of the rubber industry that American manufacturers—the consumers of two-thirds of the crop are envious of our ownership of the East [illegible] At times in fact, more or less open threats have been made that sooner or later they would make an effort to capture the plantations. This was no mere empty threat. Year after year for the past seven years the Americans, as the largest buyers, have shown their power to control the price of this commodity. By first acquiring stocks, and then for a time standing out of the market, they have repeatedly been able to force timid and impecunious growers to sell their crops at low prices. These clever American buyers no doubt welcomed—probably asked for—the restriction and licensing of rubber imports as the finest opportunity of securing cheap rubber that has ever been presented to them. The absurd suggestion that the country could effectively play its part in the war and cut down its consumption of rubber from 180,000 tons to 100,000 tons was unfortunately believed in certain quarters here. Thus, from the moment the suggestion was made the commodity market in the east was disorganised by panic selling, and placed [illegible] the buyers. Had the growers stuck to their belief that the war increased the consumption of rubber the whole of the present trouble might have been avoided. British shareholders are never afraid of a fight, and had they been frankly told of the American manufacturers' real object they would have supported the leaders of the plantation industry to any extent. Even now it is not too late to save the situation. Let the Rubber Growers' Association face the facts, and look below the surface of these 'restrictions' to the unfair advantage the American manufacturer is taking of war-time conditions in attempting to secure control of the plantation industry. If there is to be a fight for control by all means let the shareholders be told. He will play his part willingly and ungrudgingly, and so far from shrinking from the struggle I shall be surprised if he does not enjoy it."—*The India-Rubber Journal.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Cochin, 15th October, 1918.

J. S. NICOLLS, ESQ.,
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.,
Daverashola Estate,
Devarshola P. O.

Rice Supplies.

Dear Sir,—We have to acknowledge, with thanks, your letter of the 12th instant enclosing copy of minutes of a meeting held in Calicut on the 2nd idem to discuss the question of Grain Supplies.

Immediately our representative returned from Calicut after attending this meeting, we addressed the Director of Civil Supplies to the effect that the meeting had suggested Messrs. Binny & Co. in Madras and our firm in Cochin as channels of supply under the scheme of control proposed. We added that our definition of this suggestion was, that as Agents for the British India Steam Navigation Co. at this port, we should act as the steamers agents, land and store the rice and deliver to consignees in the usual way, on production of a bill of lading, it being left to firms with planting interests to ascertain what their constituents requirements would be.

To this end we circularised our immediate circle of planting friends and have in most cases received definite orders to buy on their account.

From a letter from the Director of Civil Supplies, published in the *Madras Mail* of the 5th instant you will know that the scheme of control discussed at the meeting has fallen through, consequently we have had to advise our planting friends that, meantime, we can only record their requirements of rice for future guidance.

From correspondence which has passed between the Director of Civil Supplies and ourselves, we understand that the hitch which has occurred is due to the Shipping Control not having agreed to a special rate of freight being charged on imports under control, for the benefit of the planting community.

As B. I. S. N. Co. Ltd. Agents, we were informed by our Rangoon friends on the 12th instant that they were arranging to berth a steamer there to load a full cargo for Cochin; we immediately wired to the Director of Civil Supplies enquiring whether imports would be allowed under his control and thus secure a rebate of freight by this opportunity, to which we received the following reply:—

"Control system does not apply to steamers loading Rangoon at present,"

so the scheme is still in abeyance.

On the 12th instant we also telegraphed to Rangoon for offers of rice for shipment by the opportunity mentioned, only to receive the reply that the steamer was fully booked?

You will see that everything is hopelessly indefinite at the present, and as far as we can see, it is useless our taking further action in the matter of securing supplies until the Director of Civil Supplies adjusts his differences with the Shipping Control.

We should mention that we are keeping Sir Fairless Barber and Mr. Richardson posted with the position and we shall be happy to write to you on the subject from time to time should you desire us to.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
per pro ASPINWALL & CO., LTD.,
(Sd.) ————
Manager.

Cochin, 26th October, 1918.

J. S. NICOLLS, ESQ.,
Daverashola Estate,
Devarshola P. O.

Rice Supplies.

Dear Sir,—The following is copy of a letter we have received to-day from the Director of Civil Supplies:

> "With reference to your letter dated 11th October, 1918, I have the honour to state that the Deputy Controller of Shipping is unable to grant any special rates of freight, and consequently no control based on special rates of freight is possible. As to the possibility of control in the future, I am unable to say on what lines it might develop,"

which we pass on for your information.

Yours faithfully,
per pro ASPINWALL & Co., LTD.
(Sd.) ————
Manager.

The Mooply Valley Rubber Company, Limited.
Palapilly P. O., S. India,
2nd November, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Transmission of Silver by Post.

Sir,—When I last wrote to you on the above subject I was under the impression that the whole matter was settled, but have subsequently heard from Planters in different districts that they cannot obtain the facilities promised.

I have since been in correspondence with the Postmaster-General, Madras, and for the information of Planters interested, I should like to point out that they should apply to the Superintendents of the Postal Divisions concerned and inform them of the amount of small change they require monthly by post stating the office of despatch and the office to which they require it to be remitted.

The concession has been granted in 24 individual cases that have given this information and will be granted to those that apply.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. MEAD.

No. Ms.—650.

From

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
Madras Circle.

To

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Dated Madras, the 1st November, 1918.

Sir,—I have the honour to say that the Government of India have decided that the planters in Southern India may be allowed a relaxation of the prohibition on the transmission of silver coins by post. If planters require the concession, they should apply for exemption mentioning the names of post offices from and to which parcels containing coins will be sent insured, the names and addresses of the addressees and how often and for what purpose they are sent. Each application will be referred to the Accountant-General, Madras, who will pass final orders.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd.) ————————
for Postmaster-General.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Coffee Combine.

Dear Sir,—I have read with pleasure Messrs. Morgan & Son's letter in your issue of 26th October.

I believe the coast firms were approached, and asked what line they intended taking towards the Combine, if they would join with crops that they either owned themselves, and allow crops that they controlled to join the Combine, and be held up for the Combine prices.

The answers from the coast firms were not encouraging to the Combine.

If Coast Firms are not joining the Combine, I am afraid it would be rather a suicidal policy for others to hold up for a price, that coast firms were underselling by a small margin, they would unload all their coffees, and members of the Combine would be badly left in the end.

However, Messrs. Morgan and Son's letter removes a great barrier, it also clears away rumours that they were hostile to the Combine, and they are to be congratulated on taking their courage in both hands, and writing this straightforward letter.

Let us hope other coast firms will not be afraid to do the same. Would it be too much to ask for a list of firms and private individuals who have joined the Combine to be published in the *Planters' Chronicle*? These members might be asked if they consented to their *names* being published —*not* the tonnage put on by each.

Let those joining the Combine join quickly to show our strength.

A SUBSCRIBER.

31st October, 1918.

Coffee Prices.

The resolution passed by the South Mysore Planters' Association reading " Proposed that the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be asked to write to all Curing and Selling Firms to write to their constituents pointing out the advantage of holding out for Rs. 200 and Rs. 250 per candy pounded and parchment coffee respectively " having been circulated to Coffee Curing Agents, the following answers have been received :—

Ferok, Malabar Coast,
16—10—1918.

THE SECRETARY,
U. P. A. S. I., Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th re informing our constituents re fixed prices of coffee.

What do you call a candy in the first place ? *i.e.*, weight, secondly pounded and parchment, nobody will understand this, I for one don't.

A Mangalore candy is 6¼ cwts., Calicut 500 lbs. A Calicut maund is 35 lbs., Nilgiris and Coimbatore 25 lbs., Bengal and Railway maunds 82⅞ lbs. Again no unity and hopeless confusion. Why can't planters talk proper sense and say by weight per ton, or per cwt. In the *Planters' Chronicle* it says Rs, 50 per cwt. for Parchment cured of course, and Native at Rs. 40 again cured of course, that is clean which you call pounded. Cured coffee is dried, peeled and garbled, and in my humble opinion the prices are rotten, too low. Of course one can ask anything above Rs.50 and Rs.40 per cwt., well and good, but a Native buys coffee, that is, any rubbish under the name or word of Coffee pure and simple, irrespective of the various qualities of parchment. He will say Oh ! I bought GOOD parchment from so and so for Rs. 50 and Native coffee at Rs. 40 our minimum fixed rates, and above these he won't go, though the coffee may be 10 times superior to his purchase, and he will not offer or give more, and unless the Curer, seller or planter is willing to accept the minimum quantity his coffee will remain till doomsday or anyway till the near approach of the next season's crop and he will then have to sell less than the minimum fixed rate, so we are and will be no further or better off than at present. I would suggest that the curer value the coffee, not taking the market into consideration at all which they one and all do now, and make a present of the coffee to the merchants. Let him tell the planter the value and ask him whether he is willing to accept them or not. I have always realised and demanded for higher prices than any Curer and at their public auction sales, which are a perfect farce and fiasco to my mind, but have had to sell sometimes in the long run at a low price, as they got cheaper at the auctions and their wants supplied and didn't want any more coffee. When the buyer finds he has to pay the same everywhere things will be different. All estates I cure I will charge per CWT. *not* Candy or maund.

Native buyers seem to be very few now-a-days. They don't like coming to me as I tell them this is my price take it or leave it and clear out. I don't bow down to Natives or make pujah to them at all. My motto is take it or clear, no further gas or talk wanted.

My idea for parchment minimum is Rs. 55 per cwt. Mixed and tails Rs. 50, Cherry Rs. 47-8-0 per cwt. ex-bags ex-works. It is not mentioned whether at Rs. 50 in bags and works delivery, or ex-bags and Works delivery,

or f.o.r. or f.o.b. My prices are ex-bags ex-Works. Kindly ask the planters the terms of sale, whether f.o.r., f.o.b., or works delivery, ex-bags. I hope to have 5 tons of coffee this season from Bitherakadu Estate.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) E. TEMPLETON WRIGHT,

Manager.

P.S.—I must first know before I can write to my constituents whether the prices are f.o.r., f.o.b. or Works delivery.

I have over 20 tons of last season's crop in hand now, as I won't give in to the buyers, and they seem to be in no hurry to buy on account of the difficulties of railing, and are awaiting the new crops.

E. T. W.

Pullicoon Coffee Works,
Tellicherry, 16th October, 1918.

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and before writing as you suggest to our constituents we would be glad to know the weight of the "Candy" you mention in your letter.

If it is the *Mangalore Candy* of 576 lbs. the limit prices you suggest are equivalent as under :—

200 per candy	Rs. 38-14-3 per cwt.
250 „ „	48-9-9 „ „

The selling values put on their produce by practically every one of our constituents is Rs, 50 per cwt. F. O. B. for *plantation* coffee and this limit does not reconcile itself with the suggestion made in your letter under acknowledgment.

Before therefore taking the step you request we should be glad if you will kindly explain more fully the particular prices advocated by the South Mysore Planters' Association.

Yours faithfully,

Pullicoon Coffee Works,
(Sd.) L. KINGCHURCH,
Manager.

Calicut, 16th October, 1918.

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of your circular letter of 14th instant of which the contents have our attention.

Those of our constituents who are Members of District Associations have no doubt already been approached on the subject and have had the advantages of holding out for minimum prices pointed out to them, but we are addressing those of our constituents who, as far as we are aware, are not members of any District Associations and who may therefore not be cognizant of the movement to hold out for such prices.

Yours faithfully,
per pro Peirce Leslie & Co.,
(Sd.) ———
Manager.

Mangalore, 16th October, 1918.

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of your circular letter of the 14th instant, and note the resolution passed at the General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association with thanks.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) MORGAN & SON.

Boolloor Coffee Works,
FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ., Mangalore, 25th October, 1918.
South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—We have been in due receipt of your circular letter of the 14th instant and shall be glad to write to our constituents in terms of the Resolution passed at the General Meeting of the S. M. P. Association.

We are, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) A. J. SALDANHA.

Cowcoody, Somwarpet,
N. Coorg, Nov. 2, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—Talking of anti-coffee propaganda, it is to be feared that coffee planters themselves are among the worst offenders. They have the finest material in the world but they often (chiefly bachelors it must be said) produce a drink that would make a P. and O. steward sick. Small wonder that the stranger within our gates has to fall back on tea or gin. And as for planters' clubs.....

Yet the recipe á la Mother Beeton is very simple.

Take one small hammer and break into small pieces your "coffee makers," Vienna or otherwise. Then take one earthenware jug, put in some fresh coffee powder and pour on some fresh boiling water, Bus. On the principle of "physician heal thyself" I hope this advice will have some small effect.

Yours faithfully,
L. NEWCOME.

The Rubber Growers' Association.

(Incorporated.)

38, Eastcheap, London, E.C.,
FLETCHER NORTON ESQ, 25th September, 1918.
Secretary, Rubber Growers' Association, Local Committee,
c/o The United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore, S. India.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your telegram on 18th instant, reading:—

"Forty thousand tons of rubber imported into America in May, South India receiving no share of shipment request immediate action being taken insuring to South India a correct proportion of shipping space."

On receipt of your message, my Committee at once communicated with the Ministry of Shipping, the India Office, and the Board of Trade, urging that South India interests should be adequately provided for.

No reply has yet been received to the representations made, but as soon as anything definite is learned you will be at once advised.

OUTPUT CONTROL.—By instructions of the Committee, I now beg to enclose copy of the proposals submitted by the Rubber Growers' Association to the Colonial Office on the 3rd June last for the restriction of output and fixing of prices.

This document has hitherto been treated as confidential between the Output Control Committee and the Colonial Office and has not been circulated to Members generally but as its contents have now been made known by the Authorities, there is no longer any reason why it should continue to be so treated, at all events as far as our Members are concerned.

I also enclose a copy of a communication received from the Ministry of Munitions of War under date 16th September, which will be circulated to Members shortly.

You will note that the Rubber Growers' Association Incorporated will have a representative on the Advisory Committee and it is hoped that some effective action may result from its deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. READ,
Acting Secretary.

PROPOSALS OF THE RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION FOR RESTRICTION, PRODUCTION AND FIXING PRICES OF PLANTATION RUBBER.

1. The object of this memorandum is to outline a scheme by which the Plantation Rubber Industry, in which at least £100,000,000 of British Capital is involved, may be preserved. It is imperative that, if this is to be attained, that the hardships caused by the present restriction of imports shall be as equitably distributed as may be amongst all producers, and the production brought approximately to the level of restricted consumption, while providing that sufficient rubber shall be produced to meet the requirements of the Allies.

2. The annual exports of Rubber from the various producing countries are known approximately and these exports may be taken as representing the production. Owing to extended shipping facilities *via* the Pacific, there was only a very slight accumulation of stocks in producing countries in 1917, and in the early months of 1918, America imported freely except from the Netherlands Indies.

3. The proposals are based on the figures of production in the year 1917 which provide the latest known basis.

4. Plantation production in 1917 was approx.....205,000 tons
Estimated do 1918 (without restriction) 255,000 do
Estimated consumption Plantation Rubber in 12 months commencing 1st May, 1918 on restricted basis is put at 120,000 tons. Restricted consumption represents 58½% of the 1917 production.

5. All Estates have not attained the same level of productivity. Rubber in the early stages of production gives a lower yield than when it is more mature. The cost of production per pound of rubber declines as yield increases.

6. The young and low-yielding Estates, if their crop were reduced to 58½% of their 1917 output, would find that revenue would not meet expenditure on the scale of prices suggested later on in this memorandum. The lowest annual yield per acre in bearing which could be harvested at a profit is dependent upon the price realised. Therefore, it is necessary that selling rates should be fixed and it is estimated that, at the prices hereinafter referred to, 125 lbs. per bearing acre per annum is the minimum for profitable working. The " acreage in bearing " is calculated to be any area on which the trees have reached a tappable size.

7. In order to permit the younger Estates to harvest up to 125 lbs. per acre in bearing per annum, it will be necessary for all other Estates to reduce their outputs to about 55% of their 1917 crops.

8. It is impossible to secure voluntary adherence to such a restriction by all producers. Those who are convinced of the necessity of it realise that it can only be effective in meeting the present situation if it applies to the whole of the producers of Plantation Rubber in all countries of production and is accompanied by a fixed price.

9. With the exception of some 600,000 acres planted in the Netherland Indies and 50,000 acres in French Indo-China, the Rubber Plantations are situated in British Colonies or Dependencies, and of the Netherlands-Indies acreage a substantial proportion (about one third) is owned by British Capital. Certainly less than 25% of the whole planted area is outside direct British control.

10. The suggestions for consideration are as follows :—

1. (*a*) That arrangements be made for the various Governments concerned to notify all producers that no rubber may be produced, sold or exported except under license.

(*b*) That licenses be granted only to producers for the produce of their own Plantations.

(*c*) That the licenses be issued quarterly at the rate per annum of 125 lbs. per acre in bearing per annum, or at the rate of 55% of the producers' 1917 crop, whichever is the larger or such larger or smaller production as may be estimated to meet the requirements of the Allies. Balances of incompleted licenses may be carried forward to a later period.

(*d*) In the case of Native owners of small holdings, when the number of trees cannot be computed in acres, it is suggested that the Government District Officers may grant a permit to produce and sell such quantities as may be considered reasonable, having in view the basis of the general scheme of restriction, and that a shipping license for such quantities be given to the Buyers, in exchange for such permit.

11. That the Government of the United States of America be requested to allocate their Import Licenses equitably to the various countries of production in proportion to the 1917 output, so as to ensure that all producing countries may get their fair share of the entire trade.

III. That the Governments of Holland and French Indo-China be informed of the position and urged to take steps similar to those being applied in British producing countries, receiving an assurance that if their growers apply restriction upon similar lines to those indicated above and obtain British Consul's Certificate, they will receive selling facilities on a par

with British Growers, but that, in the event of their not conforming to the restriction, the Allied Governments will be obliged to withhold selling facilities from all Netherlands-Indies and Indo-China producers who are unable to satisfy the British Consul that they are adhering to the restrictions.

IV. As such reduction in output as has been indicated in the foregoing cannot be given effect to without raising very substantially the cost of production, it is suggested that the minimum price for Plantation Rubber in the Eastern markets should be fixed on the undernoted scale until modified by order as hereinafter provided.

2/3½ per lb. for F. A. Q. First Crepe.
2/3*d*. do do Ribbed Smoked Sheet.
Ex-Warehouse at Port of shipment.

Reduction on fixed price for First Crepe.	(½*d*. per lb.	for off quality First Crepe.
	(1*d*. do	do do Ribbed Smoked Sheet.
	(2*d*. do	Clean light brown Scrap Crepe.
	(3*d*. do	do medium do
	(4*d*. do	Specky do do
	(5*d*. do	Dark to black Scrap Crepe free from heat.

Prices in European markets to be in ratio with these figures allowing for distributors' profit and variations in rates of freight, insurance and exchange.

V. That the Government appoint a Control Committee in London including representatives of the producers, who shall have power with the previous sanction of H M. Government to be given in such form as may be determined to increase or reduce the extent of the restriction proposed and to vary price if found necessary or desirable, also to make from time to time such regulations as may be deemed desirable.

VI. That Local Committees on which producers shall be represented be established in the various countries of production, with executive powers to arrange for the issue of Licenses and deal with all local questions relating thereto.

For the Rubber Growers' Association, Incorporated.

A. C. READ,
Acting Secretary.

COPY OF LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INCOR. FROM THE MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS OF WAR, DATED 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.

I am directed by the Ministry of Munitions to state that it has been decided by the War Priorities Committee of the War Cabinet to exercise a control and survey of the Raw Rubber imported into the United Kingdom, as also the Waste Rubber arising from the salvage in the War zones or within the United Kingdom, whether from the Services, or from Civil sources.

With this object in view it has been decided that the control of Raw and Waste Rubber shall be exercised by the Minister of Munitions, and in order that the Ministry may have the advantage of the advice which the Government Department using Rubber, and Representatives of the Trade,

are in a position to give, the Minister decided to appoint an Advisory Committee constituted of representatives of the following Government Departments and Rubber interests.

Rubber Growers.	Colonial Office.
Rubber Merchants.	Ministry of Munitions.
Rubber Manufacturers.	Board of Trade.
Admiralty.	War Office.

At the invitation of the Minister, Sir Clarendon Hyde has expressed his readiness to accept the position of Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and I am to request that your Association will submit the names of one or two gentlemen, from whom the Minister could select one to represent the interests of your Association on the Committee.

The functions of the Committee will be generally to advise the Minister in regard to the various matters which will be dealt with by the Ministry in connection with the control of Rubber :—

1. How far control of stocks and prices should be exercised.

2. The advising of Shipping Controller of the quantities and qualities to be shipped.

3. The areas or ports whence supplies are to be shipped and particular grades.

4. The allocation of Raw Rubber and Salved Rubber to specific purposes and advising where Government Contracts might vary their specifications to ensure the fullest economy in the use of Raw Rubber where Salved Rubber may be suitable.

5. To stimulate research and experiment so that this Important Imperial interest may be conserved through the present critical period, by finding increased possibilities of absorption of excess stocks.

6. To advise what steps should be taken in negotiating with the United States Government or other Governments as to restrictions of Rubber.

South Indian Association in London.

21, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3,
London, 25th September, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.
Secretary,
United Planters' Association of Southern India, Incorporated,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge your letter of 29th July confirming your message of 20th idem.

Your cable dated 13th instant, to Mr. Knight, reading :—

> "Knight Fortythousand tons of rubber imported into America in May South India receiving no share of shipment request immediate action being taken insuring to South India a correct proportion of shipping space"

has been passed to Mr. W. H. Cox of Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Co., who will place this before the Rubber Sub-Committee.

Yours faithfully,

A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 46.] NOVEMBER 16, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

A Coffee Combine. "Union is Strength."

District Planters' Associations. Some Interesting Meetings. Reorganisation of the U. P. A. S. I.

Correspondence. Rations for British Troops. Straits Rubber Commission. Unremunerative Coffee. Estate Indian Coffee. East Indian Coffee. Rubber Exports. Railway Facilities for Estates. Destruction of Ferns. The Government of Madras.

We regret to note the death of Mr. C. G. Lechler on the 10th instant, at the age of 70. He will be remembered as the well-known representative of the Shevaroy Planters' Association at many early general meetings of the U. P. A. S. I.

Devarshola Estate,
Devarshola, P. O.,
Nilgiris, 11th November, 1918.

THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Secretary.

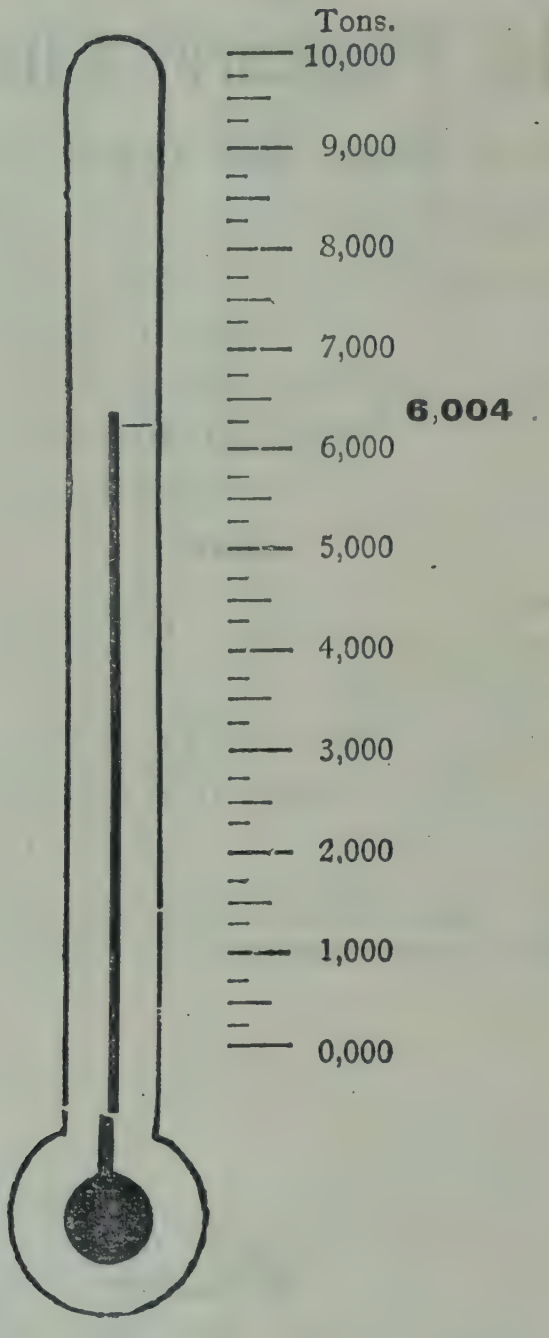
Dear Sir,—The Committee appointed to elect a Secretary for the U. P. A. S. I. have advised me as follows :—

"We duly examined all the applications received for the Secretaryship of the United Planters' Association of South India, and have the honour to inform you that we have appointed Mr. H. Waddington, as being in our opinion the most suitable candidate for the post."

Will you please notify all Councillors—and publish his nomination in the *Planting Chronicle*.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) J. S. NICOLLS,
Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 45 per cwt. ex go-down and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt. for ungarbled Native ex go-down amounts to date to **6,004** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Mundakayam Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Quarterly General Meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association, held at the Mundakayam Club, on Saturday, October 26th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. J. R. Vincent, R. Harley, Ashton Hamond, H. B. Kirk, T. W. H. Fitchett, S. P. Peckover, R. G. Hutson, A. Gordon Stewart, R. M. Saywell, N. D. Pollock, R. W. B. Gompertz and Edwin Vincent (Honorary Secretary).

1. The Minutes of last Meeting were taken as read.

2. The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 26th October, 1918 were confirmed.

3. SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY 1919.—Mr. J. R. Vincent was elected to represent the Association and was instructed to bring forward the subjects of the Mundakayam Hospital and Local Roads, as recommended by the Committee.

4. RE-ORGANISATION OF THE U. P. A. S. I. AND INCORPORATION OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.—This matter was left over, pending further information regarding the Incorporation of local Associations.

5. THE RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.—Mr. J. R. Vincent gave an account of what had passed at the R. G. A. Meeting at Calicut on October 2nd. The Meeting supported the decision of the local R. G. A. Committee in nominating Mr. J. Mackie as Chairman in India of the R. G. Association Committee and Executive Council Member for Rubber in the U. P. A. S. I. The Mundakayam Members of the U. P. A. General Committee were instructed to propose Mr. J. R. Vincent as Member-in-Waiting.

The Honorary Secretary announced that Mr. Reeves, of the R. G. Association, Ceylon Mycologist, would shortly visit Mundakayam.

6. THE MYCOLOGIST FOR RUBBER.—The Honorary Secretary read the correspondence between the Chairman and the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. The Chairman's action was confirmed and the Committee's suggestion adopted.

7. THE MUNDAKAYAM SCHOOL.—After some discussion it was proposed from the Chair that the Association offer to take over the building as it stands and complete it, with subscriptions on an acreage basis.

8. THE COOLY CHATTRAM.—Agreed that the Contract be given at Rs.2,000. Mr. Peckover kindly consented to supervise the buildings.

9. ADVANCES TO ESTATE KANGANIES BY LOCAL MERCHANTS.—After considerable discussion Mr. H. B. Kirk proposed and Mr. Edwin Vincent seconded the following resolution :—

"That the Mundakayam Planters' Association views with apprehension the practice of local Indian merchants allowing credit to Estate labourers, by the giving of rice and cash advances, with a view to attract custom, and would earnestly, warn all merchants against doing so."—Carried unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE.—Read letters re. Anchal post, Timber values, etc. Under this heading the question of the Influenza epidemic came up. Mr. E. Vincent proposed "That the Association co approach the Committee of the Medical Fund with a request that they enquire into the nature and

causes of the recent Influenza epidemic and, in the event of a recrudescence of the disease, suggest remedies with special reference to the conditions prevailing in the Mundakayam District." Seconded by Mr. Fitchett and carried unanimously.

The Annual General Meeting was fixed for Saturday, January 11th, 1919.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) J. R. VINCENT,
Chairman, M. P. A.
(„) EDWIN VINCENT,
Honorary Secretary.

Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The Third Quarterly General Meeting of the above Association, held at Arnakal Bungalow, Vandiperiyar, at 10 a.m., on Saturday, the 26th October, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. A. H. Gerrard, S. Sinclair, J. Wedderspoon, W. A. J. Milner, J. A. Richardson, J. F. Fraser, J. W. West, I. Stewart, J. S. Wilkie, H. C. Westaway, W. V. McMurtrie, D. McArthur (Chairman) and T. A. Kinmond (Honorary Secretary).

1. PROCEEDINGS.—The proceeds of the previous Meeting were confirmed, also the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Thangamullay Bungalow, on 13th September, were read and confirmed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE was read.

3. SIVAGIRIMETTU-THANEEKUDI PATH.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to Government requesting for a reply to his letter, dated 17th July.

4. THE COOLY CHUTTRAM AT MUNDAKAYAM.—Read letter from the Mundakayam Association requesting payment for amount promised, viz., Rs.800. Agreed that this amount be cessed on an acreage basis, and it was proposed by Mr. H. C. Westaway:—"That Estates not belonging to the Association be asked to pay their share." Seconded by Mr. J. A. Richardson, —Carried.

5. Read letter from Mr. W. F. Stephen resigning from the Committee; Mr. J. F. Fraser was unanimously elected in his place.

6. ST. DUNSTAN'S HOMES.—Read letter from the Chairman, Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Committee, acknowledging receipt for the sum of £84-12-10, being the amount collected at the auction of cakes at the Garden party held at Stagbrook Bungalow in honour of H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore.

7. GRAZING RULES.—Read letter. The Honorary Secretary said he had seen the Divisional Forest Officer on this matter, and the D. F. O. was of opinion that cattle belonging to Kanganies of an Estate were not liable for the grazing fee. After discussion it was resolved that no correspondence by individual Members be done about matters affecting district interests, but that all correspondence be done through the Association. The Honorary Secretary was also instructed to write to Mr. J. Mackie, requesting him to immediately approach Government on the matter.

8. TEA GARDEN TARIFF FANS.—Read letter from the Secretary U.P. A.S.I. dated 30th July. It was agreed to the Calcutta reading of the clause.

9. EXTERMINATION OF WILD DOGS.—Read letter from the Commissioner dated 16th September. His suggestion of putting meat impregnated with strychnine in the jungles was not approved of. It was suggested that the present reward of Rs.5 for the killing of wild dogs was insufficient, and that it should be raised to the equivalent of that given in the Nilgiris, viz., Rs.25 per dog.

10. BONAMI POST OFFICE.—Read letter from Postmaster-General, Madras. Resolved that the Honorary Secretary write to the Postmaster General asking whether his letter implies their abolishing the Peermade P.O., as this Association is strongly opposed to this, but has asked for a Sub-Post Office at Bonami.

11. AMMAYANAIKANUR POST OFFICE.—Read letter from Postmaster General. It was agreed that their suggestion of altering the Office hours from 10 to 5 P.M. be accepted.

12. DELAY OF MAILS FROM KODAIKANAL ROAD STATION.—Read letter from Postmaster-General. Resolved that the Honorary Secretary write to the Madras Government, through the Planting Member, drawing attention to the Postmaster-General's letter dated 19th August. Also to point out the unnecessary and unsatisfactory delay of the Mails for two nights, at Cumbam and Periakulam, a distance of only 35 miles, and asking him to take the matter up.

13. BAZAAR PRICES.—Read letter from the Magistrate informing of the appointment of an Honorary Advisory Committee consisting of himself, Mr. Wilkie and Mr. Kinmond.

14. PAMBANAR BAZAAR.—Resolved that the Honorary Secretary do write to Government requesting for a reply to his previous letters.

15. U. P. A. S. I. GENERAL MEETING.—Delegates' report as under was read. We beg to submit our report of the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting held in Madras, from the 19th August to the 24th. This Meeting constituted the 25th anniversary of the U. P. A. S. I., and, as such, the honour done to the Planting Community of S. India by His Excellency the Governor Lord Pentland attending the opening of the Meeting was all the more appropriate.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—We would like to endorse the remarks made by the Wynaad Delegate to his Association, concerning the address given us by Mr. Rae, President of the Madras branch of the European Association, and Sir Bernard Hunter and Sir Gordon Fraser. Everyone who heard these addresses must have been strongly impressed with the importance that must be attached to this Association, if European interests in India are to receive the consideration to which they are entitled.

As regards the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I., you will have read the reports of the meeting as reported in the Press. This subject was undoubtedly the most important on the Agenda, as the existence of the U. P. A. S. I. depended on some agreement being come to, suitable to all interests, whereby the U. P. A. S. I. could be put on more up-to-date lines and in a position to deal more effectively with the many questions arising, that in these days so intimately effect Planting interests. After considerable discussion, the whole question of the Re-organisation was referred to a sub-Committee. Their report was put before the General Meeting in Committee, and agreed to, clause by clause, and the rates of assessment were agreed on as follows:—

Tea	...	...	Rs.	1	8	0 per acre.
Rubber	...	...		1	4	0 do
Coffee	...	...		1	0	0 do

An Executive Committee is to be formed, which is to meet once a quarter, and the General Committee is to meet twice a year. Each District Association has to appoint two delegates as their representative, for the year, on the General Committee. Owing to want of funds to enable the Head-Quarters of the U.P.A.S.I. being in Madras (where the general opinion was that it should be) it was decided that Coimbatore should be, for the present, the Headquarters. It is a pity that the Book of Proceedings has not been published, as this would have enabled all members to have read them in full.

The resolution brought forward in this Association by Mr. Richardson, regarding the importation of Java tea into India, was brought up in conjunction with Mr. Abbott's resolution, which was that an import tax of 4 annas per pound be imposed on all teas imported into India.

We were also asked to bring forward the matter of Labour Agents being confined to labour work only; this matter was discussed and it was agreed that no work, other than that concerned with labour, should be done by agents.

No general discussion on the working of the Labour Department took place, which is a pity. Time however was not available for this, if the more important matter of the Re-organisation was to be concluded in the allotted time. We would suggest that before the Re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. becomes an accomplished fact, some opportunity should be afforded for a discussion. With the increased acreage now being represented by the U. P. A. S. I. Labour Department, such a discussion would, to a great extent, simplify the after-working of that department.

Before closing this report we wish to refer to the honour shown to Mr. Richardson, and, incidentally, to this district, by his unanimous election as our future Planting member. Mr. Richardson's keen interest in all planting matters, and the time and energy that he has spent thereon is so well known to all in this district and in S. India, that it is quite unnecessary for us to say more thereon. We heartily congratulate him.

Inclusion of Firms as Members of Association. It was decided to allow this on a subscription of Rs. 150 a year, with one vote.

There is nothing further of any special importance to remark on, but if any member wishes to ask us any questions we shall be glad to answer them to the best of our ability.

Mr. J. A. Richardson then addressed the meeting, pointing out the importance and value of everyone being a member of the European Association.

Mr. Wilkie proposed a vote of thanks to the Delegates for the very able way in which they had represented us. Seconded by Mr. T. A. Kinmond. Carried unanimously.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Wilkie and seconded by Mr. Kinmond :—That some opportunity be afforded for a discussion on the working of the U.P.A.S.I. Labour Department, before the reorganization becomes an accomplished fact. Carried unanimously.

16. RICE.—Read the minutes of Meeting, held at Calicut Club on 2nd October. Mr. Richardson addressed the Meeting and read the following telegram which he had received from the Director of Civil Supplies:—"I am not exporting rice from Godavery at all now. The B. I.-Steamer Agents wired me yesterday that there is ample cargo space for rice available and, if you can import any consignment from there, I can rail it from Madras without difficulty."

He said that, owing to the delay the Government had taken in dealing with the rice shortage, the Rangoon market had now taken advantage of our position and Rangoon rice was only available at Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 per bag. He had, however, seen Messrs. Binny and Co., Madras, who thought they could supply rice at from Rs. 11, 13 to 14 per bag plus 4 annas commission, but they required a sample of the rice required. He strongly recommended buying rice locally if obtainable.

The Chairman then read out the monthly rice requirements of Estates. After further discussion it was resolved that the rice question be left to a Committee, consisting of Mr. J. A. Richardson, Mr. J. S. Wilkie and Mr. D. McArthur.

17. TEAS REFUSED BY THE FOOD CONTROLLER.—Mr. Sinclair proposed the following resolution, seconded by Mr. I. Stewart:—"That the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the Tea Commissioner protesting against the arbitrary manner in which certain teas from Estates in this District have been rejected by the Tea Expert, and instancing a case of 100 chests of Pekoe on which the Tea Expert proposed a reduction of ½ anna per lb. on the contract price. This same tea was withdrawn and sent to Bombay and immediately realised 11 annas per lb. And also instance another case, in which two invoices of Arnakal Dust representing the same bulk, one of which was rejected and the other accepted. Mr. Wilkie also complained that he had similar trouble, and instanced a case of Glenmary Invoice 8, Broken Pekoe 4,025 lbs. that were shipped from Cochin and no complaint made, 690 lbs. were shipped from Tuticorin and no complaint made to him, but one anna per pound has been deducted by the Tea Commissioner, Madras. The teas are exactly similar, bulked and packed at the same time. It would be interesting to have an explanation of this.—Carried unanimously.

18. CURRENCY NOTES.—Read letter from the British Resident in which it was pointed out that currency notes are not legal tender.

19. LABOUR RULES.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to circulate copies of rules with copies of the Committee's suggestions. Members were requested to send in any further suggestions they wish to make to the Honorary Secretary. That the Labour Committee meet again and draw up rules, which will be brought up for comfirmation at the next General Meeting.

20. ACT I OF 1903.—After discussion it was resolved that this be brought up for discussion at the meeting as proposed in Mr. Wilkie's resolution concerning U. P. A. S. I. Labour rules.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the U. P. A. S. I. for the correspondence referred to in letters *re* Labour Act 1903.

21. ELECTION OF DELEGATE FOR THE SRI MULAM.—Proposed by Mr. Wilkie, and seconded by Mr. West. that Mr. Milner again represent us. That Rs. 100 be allowed for expenses,—Carried unanimously.

22. U. P. A. S. I. REORGANISATION COMMITTEE.—Proposed by Mr. Wilkie and seconded by Mr. West that Mr. J. A. Richardson and Mr. D. McArthur represent us.—Carried unanimously.

With votes of thanks to Mr. Sinclair for his hospitality and to the Chair, the Meeting terminated.

(Signed) D. McARTHUR,
Chairman.

(,,) T. A. KINMOND,
Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 67/12 (Q. M. G. 6). Army Headquarters, India,
Quartermaster General's Branch,
Simla, the 4th November, 1918

Rations—British Troops.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated 31st August, 1918, to the address of the Deputy Director of Stocks, I have the honour to state that the delay in replying to your inquiry, which necessitated certain references, is regretted.

The amount of coffee, if any, which may be required from your Association will be communicated to you in due course by the Controller of Contracts, who now controls all purchases of supplies for troops in India and whom you should address in future on such subjects

A copy of this letter has been communicated to him.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) H. M. YOUNG, Lieut.-Colonel
for Director of Supplies and Transport.

To The Secretary,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Peravanthanam Estate,
THE EDITOR, Mundakayam, P. O., 5—11—18.
The Planters' Chronicle.

Straits Rubber Commission.

Dear Sir,—The proposals of the Straits Rubber Commission lately published are so interesting that I hope you will find room to reprint them in the *Chronicle*. Roughly they aim at fixing a price for rubber and an obligatory curtailment of rubber output from all Plantation properties.

Will the fixing of this price be of avail if it runs counter to the price fixed by the laws of supply and demand? If your supply be curtailed and your demand remains constant or increasing, your price must necessarily read some advantage, provided no one else steps in and replaces your curtailed supplies. It is proposed to curtail the supply of Plantation rubber to 200 lbs. per acre. Will it materially benefit the British Empire, if all British capitalised plantation rubber is curtailed in its supply by so many tons, and a similar amount of Brazilian rubber, America capitalised, takes its place on the markets.

America recently admitted the imports of plantation rubber, to the distinct advantage of Fine Hard Para, and still more recently President Wilson has firmly demanded Free trade amongst all the allied countries.

I write this in the hope that some leader of the rubber industry in South India will illuminate the rank and file on these points, through your columns.

Yours faithfully,
H. B. KIRK.

Ubban Estate,
6th November, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Unremunerative Coffee.

Sir,—I read with interest Mr. Anstead's article on unremunerative and patchy coffee in the *Chronicle* of the 2nd instant. It is a subject that some four years ago gave me grave cause for reflection and anxiety as, on one or two estates in my charge, coffee, as described in the Director of Agriculture's communication, was much in evidence. I had tried for years everything possible to bring it round, such as manuring, digging, renovation, pitting, etc., but all to no purpose; the old trees in response put on a superficial greenness in the rains, only to revert directly the hot weather set in. Supplies large or small, no matter how treated, failed to thrive. In addition to being "clearly defined, these patches certainly adversely affected the adjacent coffee and increased yearly, proving a danger to the estates and a nursery for leaf disease and borer. Coming to the conclusion in 1914 that I had exhausted all known remedies for the reclamation of this coffee, the following year I demarcated a block, dug up all unprofitable coffee, felled practically all the shade trees, and burnt them; then lined, pitted and planted the whole area *de novo* with coffee and shade. The former was all manured with three double handsful of cattle manure, otherwise the treatment was identical to that of a clearing in virgin forest. The result has exceeded my most sanguine expectations, the coffee in the block above described was topped at the end of sixteen months at three and a half feet, spike had to be rubbed off the second year, in the third, three quarters was left.

This field of coffee is now not only looking well but carrying quite a fine crop. Three other patches treated similarly in 1916, 1917, and 1918 all promise equally well. As Mr. Anstead says however half measures are useless, a clear sweep must be made. A few forest trees considered good caste were left in 1915, only to have to be cut out this season as they were retarding the growth of both coffee and young shade in their vicinity, this late felling was doubly unsatisfactory, in that the trees had for two seasons not only injured the coffee around them but in their fall damaged a lot of good coffee some distance away. The advisability of digging up stumps I admit, but owing to expense I had to leave them. All known to induce bad foot rot and kill coffee are being isolated by trenching. In this respect I would say I have never found the decaying fig stump to kill coffee. The following tree stems, so far as my experience goes, certainly do (1) cinnamon (2) maragua (3) sedly (4) boôtaly (grevia opposite folia) (5) google (vateria indica) also the silver oak and gonie (ficus Mysoreusis), if they are victims, not if cut down when healthy. A few years ago, acting on the suggestion of the late Mr. Graham Anderson I had holes some six inches deep bored in stumps, filled the same with saltpetre and fired them the following hot weather, to find that, if the stumps were fairly dry, not only did they burn right away but a lot of roots went also without appreciable injury to the adjacent coffee. My only regret is I did not persevere with this, as by now I should not have a single stump in my estates. It is cheaper than digging out and more efficient.

My soie reason for writing to you on this subject is that I hope my letter may hearten any planter who has hitherto looked upon these blocks as irreclaimable to tackle them in a like manner, or on the lines laid down by the Director of Agriculture. Properly done, success is assured. The cost pans out for the first year at about Rs. 85 per acre. I would add all these replantings have been liberally treated, manured from the beginning and kept free from bad weeds. The shade planted was dapap, silver oak, rain tree, Albizzia (indigenous) tari and bussery and gonie stakes. I advocate a clean sweep of all shade for reasons already given, and because any half grown ones left will, in the course of a few seasons become superfluous and have to be cut down, to the injury of fine young coffee.

Liming I am sure would have proved of benefit, but here again the cost deterred me. Stumping I have found unsatisfactory. An unhealthy stump never grows a good shoot. If sound the tree can, as a rule, be induced to grow nicely by partly planting *i.e.*, cutting down say 18" or 24" from the soil and leaving a branch or two. I can show stumps that have remained green for three years, and during that time have not made an attempt at a sucker. In regard to another point raised by Mr. Anstead in his very interesting article, digging and non-digging, the latter I tried some years ago to my regret, I cannot say too much or speak too strongly against its adoption, in this district at least, the result of non-digging was deplorable. His personal observation points to the necessity for digging all coffee at least every second year, preferably annually, or if expense is not a factor twice in twelve months. The result I feel confident would be good, I use both hand fork and mamoty for this work.

Yours falthfully,

J. G. H. CRAWFORD.

East Indian Coffee.

Booloor Coffee Works,
Bangalore, 7th November, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—We enclose herein a copy of the latest report published by Messrs. F. Latheille and Son regarding East India Coffee and shall be obliged if you couid find space for it in your valued journal. We may mention that it is at the express wish of Messrs. Latreille that we are sending the report to your good self for publication.

Yours faithfully,

(Sigued) A. J. SALDANHA & SON.

(Enclosure),

263, Gresham House, Old Broad Street,

London, E. C. 2, 17th September, 1918.

East Indian Coffee.

The wonderfully successful developments of the War during the past few weeks and the still greater victories which appear to be looming in the early future, in favour of the Allied cause, make the moment appropriate for a short review of the position and prospects of the Coffee market in London.

The first point that strikes one is the rapid reduction in the entire Stocks of Coffee now remaining in this country, which total only 27,000 tons against 71,000 tons at this time in 1917. The Home consumption alone has amounted, since 1st January 1918, to 18,000 tons against 14,000 tons for the same period in 1917.

Thus, there is less than one years's supply in the country at present, nearly all of inferior description and quality, and more people are now drinking coffee than ever before.

Under these conditions, it is difficult to imagine that our rulers can much longer refuse to admit further supplies to be imported from India and elsewhere. Most pressing representations continue to be made to the Government by our very influential friends in the coffee trade to relax the Prohibition. We can say no more yet than that we are hopeful of the result of these efforts. The crux of the whole difficulty is, of course, the want of tonnage, but here also the prospects are improving to some extent.

As proof that the danger of submarine attacks has been materially reduced (it is far from being *ended*) we may add that the premium of insurance against War Risks by Steamers from India *via the Cape* has lately been further reduced to 60 per cent. after standing for a long time at 105 as the highest point. Via the Mediterranean, the rate still remains at 120 per cent.

Our market continues very firm at prices far above the normal level.

In the event of any tonnage being available, we cannot too strongly advise our friends in India to ship to us every bag of coffee (whether Native or Plantation) for which they can possibly obtain freight to London, confident as we are that we could readily dispose of it at most excellent prices.

F. LATREILLE & SON.

Department of Commerce and Industry,
India, 25th October, 1918.

Rubber Exports.

Dear Sir Fairless Barber,—With reference to your letter of 1st October, I have been looking into the figures of rubber exports from India during the five months of this year. I see that the shipments from India to the United Kingdom and to Ceylon respectively have been as follows :—

	U. K.	Ceylon.
	lbs.	lbs.
1916	1,076,000	319,000
1917	1,839,000	526,000
1918	1,490,000	1,483,000

The shipments direct to the United Kingdom from India are, you will see, for the five months, less than the corresponding period in 1917, but larger than those for the corresponding period in 1916. The shipments from India to Ceylon have, as you will see, increased very largely. The total shipments from India, including shipments to Ceylon, show a very large increase over the total shipments from India for the five months during the years 1916 and 1917 respectively.

I am afraid there is no hope of getting rubber a higher measure of priority, than it has at present. Rubber is unfortunately one of the world's commodities of which there is at present a great surplus.

I have read your letter to the Calcutta Liners' Conference of 1st October and their reply of 10th October, and I think that the advice which the Conference give in their letter of 10th October to the Association is sound.

You say in your letter that you are told that Ceylon and the Straits will have nothing to do with the proposals put forward by the Rubber Growers' Association. So far as Ceylon is concerned, I think that you are mistaken, for our information from the Ceylon Government is that the Conference of representatives of the rubber industry in the Colony agree to the compulsory restriction of the output of rubber, provided that there is a world's restriction.

They are in favour, I understand, of licenses for six months, also a flat rate of 200 lbs. rubber per acre. They suggest that the opinion of the Rubber industry in England should be taken as to the application of fixed minimum prices in the stocks that will be held at the commencement of compulsory restriction. They are generally in favour of the other proposals.

The whole position seems likely to be changed by the recent proposal to fix maximum prices for rubber transactions, which you have no doubt seen in Reuter's telegram of 11th October.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) G. BARNES,

The Hon'ble Sir Edward Fairless Barber, Kt.,
Ootacamund, The Nilgiris.

November 1st, 1918.

Dear Sir George Barnes,—I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 25th October.

The figures which you give me for 5 months (from 1st April, I suppose) are interesting, but I think they must deal with the whole of India.

The Customs figures for local shipments for 9 months, from 1st January, show that no shipments have been made to the U. K. since January last, during which months 1,089,059 lbs. were shipped, so I suppose the 1,490,000 lbs. which you give were entirely from Burmah.

The figures with which the Customs have furnished me are :—

U. K.	...	...	1,089,059 lbs.
Ceylon	...	...	2,538,825 ,,
Other ports	...	...	699,518 ,,
	Total	...	4,327,402 lbs.

The shipments to Colombo represent in part, rubber that has not yet been sold, while that which has been sold has been purchased at cheap rates, presumably by those who have opportunities of shipping which we do not enjoy.

The position is that the shipping industry allotted 1,000 tons monthly for rubber shipments from Ceylon and S. India. Ceylon has practically, had the whole of this, and in addition has shipped nearly 9000 tons in excess of this up to 30th September.

Ceylon is dependent on India for labour. Is she not also dependent on India for the financing of these shipments? So could not some pressure be brought to bear to secure for us a fair proportion of the space that is apparently available.

I note that you are afraid that there is no hope of getting a higher measure of priority than it has at present, but, while Ceylon gets some priority, South India is getting none.

I know of some Estates that have not sold one pound of this year's crop, and you will understand how serious the position is becoming in regard to financing them.

I am glad to hear that I was wrongly informed regarding the attitude of Ceylon towards the proposals of the Rubber Growers' Association.

We also shall welcome compulsory restriction and Government control on the lines of Reuter's telegram which I saw last Sunday, but even so we shall require space to move our share.

It is very kind of you to have troubled to take up this matter, and I trust that some measure of relief will accrue, as was the case with the Coffee Planters.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) E. F. BARBER.

Sir George Barnes, K. C. S. I.

Office of the Director of Civil Supplies,
Mount Road, Madras, 9th November, 1918.

M. No. 99/18—1.

From
R. B. Wood, Esq., I. C. S.,
Director of Civil Supplies, Madras.

To
The Secretary,
United Planters' Association of South India, Bangalore.

Railway Facilities for Estates.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated 6th November 1918. I have the honour to state that every consideration will be given to the claims of the Estates for Railway facilities.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd). R. B. WOOD,
Director of Civil Supplies.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Destruction of Ferns.

Dear Sir,—Will you or any of your readers, who have experience of ferns, bracken variety, as tea weeds, tell me how best to get rid of them, also say if they are very exhausting to the soil.

FERN.

11—11—18.

Government of Madras.

Revenue (Special) Department.

No. 550—II/18—1.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. A. R. KNAPP,
Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Dated Fort St. George, the 8th November, 1918.

Sir,—I am directed to refer to your letter dated the 29th August, 1918, forwarding resolutions passed at the last Annual General Meeting of your Association, in which the following suggestions were made:—

(*a*) that the Home Government should be asked to reconsider the necessity for the retention of the prohibition on the import of East India coffee into the United Kingdom;

(*b*) that the Home Government should be asked, if possible, to supply shipping for at least a portion of the coming crop of Indian coffee;

(*c*) that the Home Government should be asked to permit export of the 1918-19 crop to the United Kingdom and Australia;

(*d*) that the import of other than British grown coffee into Ceylon, Australia, Aden, Mesopotamia and the Straits Settlements should be totally prohibited; and

(*e*) that the Home Government should be asked to prohibit the export of all coffee from the United Kingdom to countries east of Port Said.

With reference to suggestions (a) and (b), the Government of India state that, as large stocks of coffee are still understood to exist in the United Kingdom and as there has been no improvement whatever in the world shipping positions, since the date of the embargo on the import of East India coffee, they consider that no useful purpose will be served by addressing the Home Government in the matter. There is no restriction on exports of coffee from India to Australia nor, as far as the Government are aware, on imports into Australia. Suggestions (*d*) and (*e*) were placed before the Home Government last year without success.

In view of these facts I am directed to inform you that the Government of India regret that they are unable to support any of the suggestions made in the resolutions. They are, however, prepared to ask the Home Government to admit a portion of this year's crop into the United Kingdom, and to this end I am to ask that the Government may be given, at a very early date, an estimate of the amount of this year's coffee crop for the Madras Presidency and of the unshipped balance of the last year's crop, if any. Your estimate of 12,000 tons of this year's crop, telegraphed to me on the 6th September, 1918 is, it is presumed, for the whole of South India including Mysore and Coorg.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) ————————
for Secretary to Government.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 47.] NOVEMBER 23, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.
(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

South Travancore Planters' Association,

Restriction of Coffee Output Negatived.

The Labour Department.

Correspondence :—Coffee on account of Greek Government. Statement of Shipments. Army Requirements. The Weeding out of Bracken. A Coffee Combine. Required—Fair Prices. The Re-extension of Coffee Sales.

At the request of Mr. C. Lake, the Honorary Secretaries of the North Mysore and South Mysore Indian Planters' Associations have been addressed with a view to obtaining their co-operation in the Combine.

The Mysore Chamber of Commerce reports that the total Exports of Coffee from Bombay during the month of October was as follows :—

To Asiatic Red Sea Ports	207	cwts.
„ Persian Gulf	62	„
„ Muskat Territory and Trucial Oman ...	685	„

Sale of Coffee to the Greek Government.

The following cablegrams have passed :—

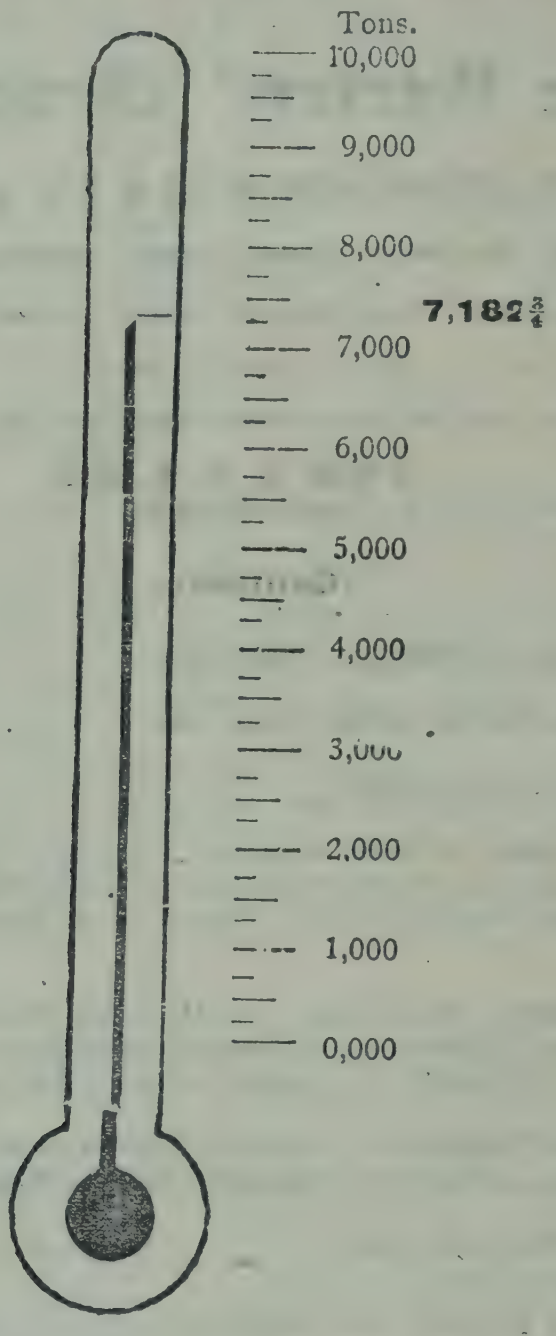
13TH INSTANT. "At what price can you offer plantation free on Board without freight and insurance ? Mockett."

15TH INSTANT. "Selling Greece two thousand your plantation cable, quickly price per cwt. sterling F. O. B. Coast.? Mockett."

On the 21st instant, Mr. C. Lake kindly replied to both the above as follows :—

"Offer Greece two thousand at seventy-five Shillings or better per cwt. F. O. B. Coast."

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 45 per cwt. ex go-down and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt. for ungarbled Native ex go-down amounts to date to **7,182¾** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Travancore Planters' Association.

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held at the Quilon Club, on the 2nd November, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Cook (Chairman), Mackie, Stewart, Ross, Jackson, Thom, Knight, J. L. Hall, C. Hall, Anderson, Pryde, Stainsforth, Gray and Moore (Honorary Secretary). *Visitors.*—Messrs. Anstead, McPherson, Wilson and Henderson.

The notice of meeting having been read, the Chairman on behalf of the members of the Association congratulated the Honorary Secretary on his recent marriage, and as a token of their good wishes, presented him with a cheque for Rupees Two hundred. Mr. Moore briefly replied, thanking members for this expression of their esteem.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Correspondence was read and dealt with.

Mr. C. Hall, one of the delegates to the Annual Meeting at Madras, then presented the delegates' report as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—A detailed report of the proceedings has been recorded in the public press and it is needless for us to enlarge to any extent on what you have all doubtless already read. The Agenda, as you know, was a long one and took us 5½ days to wade through.

The meeting was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Lord Pentland, the Governor of the Madras Presidency on the opening day, who addressed us and gave us a hearty welcome to Madras.

After the Secretary's Report, the Chairman's address and the reports of the Labour Director, the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the Planting Member of Council had been read, and all of which have since appeared in the *Planters' Chronicle*, the work of the Agenda proper was taken up.

Of course by far the most important subject was the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. and it absorbed a good deal of the time of the Meeting. It was the source of a great deal of discussion, instructive and otherwise, and it was apparent to your delegates that a proposal, such as that passed at our last meeting here, would not find support, so they agreed to support the Mundakayam scheme with which you are conversant. This scheme, however, got very little support and on a vote being taken the Control Committee's scheme was accepted by an overwhelming majority. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Lake, Mead, Pinches, Richardson, Congreve and Mackie were then appointed to at once go further into this scheme and report to the Meeting. The result of their deliberations is before you.

In the matter of a Mycologist for Rubber, which is of the utmost importance to our Association, you will note that Government are to be asked to provide a man immediately. We trust that no further delay will take place and that the matter will not be lost sight of for a moment.

The new General Committee of the re-organised Association is to consist of two members from each affiliated Association and they shall meet at least twice a year. The Executive Committee, which will take the place of the old Control Committee, will be composed of the Chairman and the Planting Member to Council ex-officio and three members representing Tea, Coffee and Rubber, respectively.

A Committee consisting of Messrs. Mackie, Lake and Pinches was appointed to advertise for and appoint a new Secretary and also to go into certain matters in connection with the re-organisation scheme with Messrs. King and Partridge, the Association's legal advisers.

The Hon'ble Sir Fairless Barber declined to be nominated again as Planting Member to Council, and Mr. J. A. Richardson was nominated to succeed him. No other names were brought forward.

The Mundakayam Association proposed that the Rubber representative on the Executive should in future act as Chairman of the local Committee of the Rubber Growers' Association, and this was agreed to.

STATISTICS.—The following resolution was passed on this subject:—"That this Association urge on affiliated association the necessity of preparing correct and complete returns for statistical purposes. "We understand the Director of Statistics to the Government of India has complained that his publication on the production of Tea in India has been delayed through not receiving returns from some estates in South India. We would therefore urge on all members the great necessity of completing the returns Government ask for. Statistics are of the utmost importance to those interested in the industry.

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION.—Resolution XX was:—"That it is essential that the U. P. A. S. I. becomes affiliated to the B. E. P. O., and that all associations affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I., be asked to subscribe an average of Rs. 110 for this year towards the annual subscription of £100 and that, when the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I. is accomplished, the future annual subscription be paid by that body."

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.—Some interesting speeches were made on this subject, a full report of which will no doubt appear in the book of proceedings. We would suggest to those who are not already members to join as soon as possible.

Mr. Nicolls was elected Chairman for the third time and Messrs. Lake and Mead were appointed Vice-Chairman.

We wish to record our appreciation of the hospitality shown to the Delegates at Madras, and our thanks are due to the Madras Club for making the planters' representatives honorary members during their stay in that city.

"These, gentlemen, we think, are about all the principal points that affect our Association, but the Book of Proceedings will no doubt soon be published, and you will have an opportunity of further studying the work of the Delegates."

On the motion of Messrs. Moore and Ross the report was adopted and the delegates thanked them for their representation.

The Chairman in speaking of the work done at the Meeting said:—"Just before starting for Madras a letter was received by one of the delegates from a member of this Association saying that if the U. P. A. S. I's

proposal was carried out, about 3,000 acres would leave the Association. We now ask the controllers of that acreage to seriously re-consider the matter as by the re-organisation scheme they are going to obtain all they wanted for a less amount than they were willing to pay for a Rubber Mycologist. We understand they were agreeable to subscribe up to Rs. 2 an acre for such a man. The proposal carried at the Madras meeting is going to give them a special Rubber Mycologist with two trained assistants, the use of the Scientific Department, the services of a large combined Labour Department (if they care to make use of it) and the general use of the U. P. A. S. I. The subscription is only to be Rs. 1/4/- per acre, so there appears to be no sound reason for this 3,000 acres of rubber declining to join the re-organised body. The position of some tea in this district is quite another matter as they get no "quid pro quo" for a payment twelve times larger than at present. So they must decide for themselves whether to subsidise wealthier properties to obtain a Rubber Mycologist and, or to assist in obtaining labour for the other Tea and Coffee Districts. At the Munaar meeting of the Labour Control Committee held in April last and the results of which were published in the *Chronicle* of the 4th May last as a reply to the Mundakayam Association scheme for the re-organisation of the U. P. A. S. I.) two returns were given for the failure of the Labour Department to be as successful as anticipated, the second of these being that "they had been too considerate to non-subscribers." When supporting the Mundakayam scheme at the Madras meeting, I said that this seemed to be a threat to non-members to join up or look out for trouble, but I would like to know if it had any other meaning. Now, gentlemen, although nearly all the members of the Labour Committee were present, not one of them even attempted to give any other meaning. Sir Fairless Barber who signed the report of the Munaar meeting published in the *Chronicle* said :—" Mr. Cook mentioned a threat. I do not know who made the threat, or so-called threat. I do not think that the report of a Committee meeting which would only be published to the members ought to be taken too seriously. I have no doubt when you talk among yourselves you often say a thing you would not care to be published in print." This is the notice that was taken of the question and does not explain reason No. 2, so it would seem to me that members who do not join the re-organised U. P. A. S. I. may prepare for trouble from its Labour Department. If this is not so, why was reason No. 2 not explained ? You can draw your own conclusions ?

The question of Incorporation of District Associations was next brought before the meeting, and Mr. Mackie gave his views on the matter. In view of the question not having been fully settled by the U. P. A. S. I, nothing was done for the present.

The Chairman brought forward Resolution No. XX of the Madras meeting for consideration and it was agreed that the Association pay Rs. 110 as a contribution towards the U. P. A S. I. subscription for 1918 to the British Producers' Organisation on the understanding the future subscriptions should be paid out of the U. P. A. S. I. funds.

The Chairman then explained that under the re-organisation scheme two members had to be elected to represent each District Association on the General Committee of the U. P. A. S. I. There was no time to arrange for the matter to be dealt with by the Association and the Committee therefore forwarded the names of Messrs. Mackie and Ross as representatives of this Association. The action of the Committee was confirmed.

Mr. Moore was elected to represent the Association at the forthcoming Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and was instructed to bring up the subjects of Roads and Communications and Fuel Reserves. The question of a European Ward at the Hospital was also spoken of and the Secretary was requested to ask Government what steps had been taken in regard to previous representations on this matter.

Mr. Mackie stated that he had attended a meeting of the South Indian Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association at Calicut on October 2nd and presented the following report:—

I attended a meeting of the Local Branch at Calicut on Wednesday the 2nd October and as Mr. Stewart was unable to attend I represented this Association on his behalf.

The Agenda was as follows:—

To consider the formation of a Local Committee.
The Restriction of Output.
Freight and Tonnage.
Financial Assistance to Rubber Planters.
Statistics and Returns.
Membership of R. G. A.
Rubber Mycologist.
Any other Business.

(1). To consider the Formation of a Local Committee.—As you are aware the Association has been in the past known as the Local Committee of R. G. A, and has been composed of delegates from different Associations, and representatives from certain firms. The Mundakayam proposed, however, that all members of the R. G. A. in South India and not only associations and representatives from firms be members of the Local Committee. This was a very sound proposal indeed, as it gives the representation of every affiliated Estate the opportunity of attending the meetings which are sometimes very instructive and it seems to me a great pity that they have not been more fully reported in the past. It was felt, however, that as a *Committee* this re-organised body would be too large and it was agreed that it should be known in future simply as the South Indian Branch of the Rubber Growers' Association. A small Committee was considered necessary to attend to the more urgent work of the Branch and to generally conduct it, and Messrs. A. H. Mead, J. R. Vincent and J. H. Pascoe were appointed. It was also agreed that Mr. J. Mackie's name should be put forward by the delegates to their respective Associations as their nominee as Rubber representative on the Executive Committee of the United Planters' Association of South India.

(2). Restriction of Output.—Mr. Richardson, in a long speech, proposed the following resolution:—

"In view of the action of the Straits Government in refusing to uphold compulsory restriction of output, we hereby release ourselves and at the same time express regret that the R. G. A. has proved itself incapable of carrying out a scheme which would have been of the greatest value to the whole rubber industry, had it received unanimous support."

The resolution was seconded by Sir Fairless Barber and, on being put to the vote, only these two gentlemen supported it.

Mr. Mackie then proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Vincent and carried, the supporters of the previous resolution only voting against it:—

"That we continue to voluntarily restrict in accordance with the Rubber Growers' Association's recommendations and that we urge on that body the desirability of getting the various Governments to enforce compulsory restriction in accordance with their recent recommendations to the Colonial Government."

(3). FREIGHT AND TONNAGE.—Certain interesting correspondence was read, but as you know we are still in the same position and are unable to ship anything. I have placed on the table copies of correspondence the Secretary has had with the representative of the Calcutta Liners' Conference.

(4). FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RUBBER PLANTERS.—As you are aware, certain figures have been asked for and I believe Government are prepared to grant assistance by what is known as teccavi loans. I am doubtful if many Estates will be in a position to accept assistance by this method.

(5). STATISTICS AND RETURNS.—It is to be hoped that these will be brought up to date especially with regard to acreage, years of planting and production.

(6). MEMBERSHIP OF R. G. A.—It was considered most desirable that all Estates who are not now members should join immediately.

(7). RUBBER MYCOLOGIST.—It was agreed to approach the parent body with a view to getting them to subscribe Rs. 5,000 towards the U. P. A. S. I. Mycologist scheme.

(8). It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at Cochin.

The question of Rice Supplies was discussed and it was regretted that the Director of Civil Supplies in Travancore was not present as had been hoped. Members spoke of the difficulty now experienced in obtaining supplies and of the loss being sustained by the Estates in selling rice to coolies at a reasonable rate. It was resolved, on the motion of Messrs. Ross and C. Hall, that:—"This Association request Government and the Director of Civil supplies to render planters more assistance in obtaining supplies of rice, the requirements of this Association being about 5,000 bags per month."

The Chairman reported that the Committee had met and discussed the Rules and that the Secretary would forward copies of its recommendations to members so that the matter could be fully dealt with at the Annual Meeting.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, being present, the Chairman asked him to give members the benefit of any information concerning his Department and answer any questions members might have for him. Mr. Anstead very kindly did so and at the close was thanked for his very interesting remarks.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed by the Chairman.

(Signed) R. J. A. MOORE,
Honorary Secretary.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

Subscribers are reminded that it is against the Rules of the Department for Correspondence to pass direct between Estates and Indian Agents. European Officers in charge of Divisions should be addressed on all matters in connection with requirements.

MADRAS G. O. No. 705 (HOME DEPARTMENT) MISCELLANEOUS.—Dated 15th October 1918, makes permanent the arrangements for service of warrants through the Labour Department, dealt with in all previous G. O's. (No. 101 Judicial of 12—1—'16 No. 1074 Home Misc. of 21—9—'17 and No. 426 Home Misc. of 8—5—'18. All District Magistrates concerned have reported favourably on the working arrangements. The Inspector-General of Police gives the following table for the year ending 30—6—18:—

District.	Number of warrants less number pending.	No. satisfactorily dealt with.	Percentage.
COIMBATORE—			
Labour Department ...	675	566	88·8
Through Labour Department to Police ...	178	78	43·9
Direct to Police ...	735	365	49·7
Total ...	1,588	1,009	63·5
MADURA— ...	78	60	77

He writes,—The reason why the Labour Department shows a much smaller proportion of warrants under the heads "Outside Jurisdiction" and "False names and addresses" than the Police is because the Department has the advantage of referring back warrants to complainants for correct information, and of being able to follow warrants into other districts while the Police must return warrants in both cases." In the present Order (No. 705 of 15th October 1918) Government directs "that the system should be adopted as a permanent measure. The District Magistrates of Malabar, the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura and Salem, and the Inspector-General of Police are requested to submit in July of each year a report on the working of the system during the previous twelve months."

"2. The attention of the Labour Department, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Coimbatore, is invited to the remarks of the Inspector-General of Police in paras. 5 and 6 of his report. "The harmonious co-operation of the Labour Department with the Magistracy and the Police being an essential requisite for the success of the working of the Department, the Government would be glad if the Labour Department would arrange to send Agents to help the Police in identifying warrantees wherever necessary. The Department is also requested to see that warrants which have been unexecuted for three months are punctually returned to the Court concerned."

It is with great pleasure that I remind Subscribers that the Credit of initiating the system, no easy matter, is entirely due to the late Mr. E. F. H. Day, and the subsequent successful working of it, which has caused it to be now made permanent, is due to Mr. H. Waddington.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Director.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Government of Mysore,
No. 1132/Mis Office of the Director of Agriculture in Mysore,
Bangalore, November 18th, 1918.

Notice.

The pamphlet on the Scale, Insects of Coffee, will be supplied free to Mysore Planters on application.

They will also be supplied to planters outside Mysore on payment of its cost, viz., one rupee per copy.

H. V. KRISHNAIAR,
The Planters' Chronicle, Offg. Director of Agriculture.
Bangalore.

MESSRS. T. STANES & CO., LD., Bombay,
Coimbatore 21st October, 1918.

Coffee on A/C Greek Government.

Dear Sirs,—We have had the pleasure of an interview with Mr. W. H. Holland, and on his suggestion we beg to detail the situation to date as far as we are concerned.

On the 16th August we received a telegram from the Ministre Ravitaillement, Athens, of which the following is a translation :—

"On recommendation High Direction Transport, am sending you present cable—have bought through Committee Internationale Ravitaillement London 2,000 tons Indian coffee of which 1,048 tons having been shipped from Malabar *via* Bombay, have already arrived at Suez and 836 tons will be shipped from Madras, the remainder consisting of 116 tons according to telegraphic advice we have just received from London sent from Malabar arrived in Bombay in very bad condition and were consequently condemned. Please have goods inspected, stating damage and settle the affair with the insurers, safeguarding interest with Greek Government. Please communicate also direct with London County Westminster Bank, London, who finances affair for our account, keeping us also posted of all results."

On receipt of this telegram we made enquiries and found 1,345 bags lying in the hands of the Port Trust in Alexandra Dock, and learned that they had been so lying since discharged ex s.s. "Bahaduri" from Mangalore in June, that the coffee was consigned to the Shipping Controller, that the bags had been surveyed by a Government as well as by a Civil Surveyor, that 118 bags had been sold by auction realising Rs. 10 per bag and that nothing further had been done in regard to the matter.

We then sent the following telegram to Athens on the 16th August :—

"Thirteen hundred and forty-five bags in hands of Port Trust, one hundred and eighteen bags sold under Government order, surveys held by Government and Civil Surveyors—accrued Port Trust charges one hundred sixty-seven pounds sterling, we recommend immediate sale in order to stop expenses. Coffee already in bad condition and growing worse. Telegraph full instructions who are the insurers."

Meanwhile, pending an answer to the above we ascertained that the Insurance Co's concerned are the South British, London and Lancashire, Commercial Union and Triton Companies, their interest in the 1345 bags being as follows :—

South British	476	bags shipped by	Morgan & Son,
	249	,, ,,	A. J. Saldanha & Son.
	41	,, ,,	Pullicoon Coffee Works,
	766	bags	

London and Lancashire ...	135	„	„	Volkart Brothers,
	5	„	„	T. Stanes & Co.
Triton	9	„	„	Mamally Coffee Works.
Commercial Union ...	430	„	„	Peirce Leslie & Co.
	1,345	bags.		

On interviewing the representatives of these various companies, we ascertained that they are all willing to follow the South British Company who have the largest interest, and the offer of the latter is to bear 3½ per cent of the insured value of the bags still remaining and total loss on the 118 bags sold (the proceeds of that sale Rs. 1,180 having been handed to the South British Company in trust for whomsoever may be concerned).

We also interviewed the Collector of Customs who referred us to the Shipping Controller, and on seeing the latter he declined all responsibility in the matter stating that his duty extended only to transhipment.

We then received the following telegram from Athens: —"Have communicated contents to your telegram concerning coffee damage to our representative on the Internationale Commission Michel Embiricos, care of Greek Legation, London, who will give you direct all necessary instructions on our account; please also keep us posted."

We heard nothing further then until the 7th September when the Collector of Customs requested an interview, during which he learned that he had received a telegram from Simla informing him that we had been appointed to act for the Greek Government and to give us all assistance possible. We then told him that we suggested that the best thing to do would be to sell the coffee in order to stop the ever-growing expenses, but he could not see his way to give us definite instructions to that effect.

Then we received a telegram from our own London House, instructing us to do nothing without written instructions from the Department of Commerce and Industry which tied our hands, pending communication with that Department, and the reply to our request for instructions was simply a reference to the Collector of Customs, Bombay, and on again interviewing him we were unable to get anything definite beyond the suggestion that we should address him a letter embodying what we suggested doing, which letter he would submit to the Department. This course was followed and elicited a telegram stating that our proposal seemed to be sound. Our proposal being that the coffee should be valued on basis of present market price here, a telegraphic request to be then addressed to Embiricos, London, asking for definite instructions whether to re-ship or sell.

All the foregoing negotiations and communications brought matters to a week ago, and our difficulty then was to find a disinterested coffee expert who would give a perfectly unbiassed opinion. We hesitated to approach anyone in the coffee trade here, because it would surely be to the interest of such an one that the coffee should be sold here at a low figure. However, Mr. Holland's visit has solved that difficulty, for he very kindly undertook to survey the coffee, which he did this morning, and our further action will depend upon the advice which he is in a position to give us.

We may add that we have heard nothing whatever from Embiricos as stated in the second Athens telegram.

We are, Dear Sirs,
Yours faithfully,
Per Pro CORY BROTHERS & CO., LD.
(Signed) ———
Manager.

STATEMENT OF COFFEE SHIPPED PER S.S. BAHADURI GIVING PARTICULARS OF QUANTITIES LOST, DAMAGED, RE-SHIPPED TO GREECE, ETC.

						cwts.	qr.	lb.	Remarks.
Morgan & Son ...	G. G. Mysore Plantation.	1,491	bags	weight nett		2,236	2	0	The Estate name on bags.
Peirce Leslie ...	do	1,412	do	ô		2,294	2	0	
Volkart Bros. ...	G. G. J. R. Plantation.	200	do			300	0	0	
do	T. H.	114	do			171	0	0	
do	N. E. S.	68	do			102	0	0	
do	O. L. S.	331	do			496	2	0	
do	G.	33	do			49	2	0	
do	K. B.	89	do			133	2	0	
do	W. C.	3	do			4	2	0	
do	G. G. Malabar native	96	do			144	0	0	
A. J. Saldanha & Sons...	G. G. Plantation coffee	1,237	do	Tons	100	10	0	14	
do	G. G. Kents native	159	do		12	18	1	14	
Pullicoon Coffee Works...	G. G. Plantation	606	do		...	984	3	0	
T. Stanes & Co.,	G. G. Varidaymullay Plantation	70	do		...	110	2	0	
do	Walliwarrum	37	do		...	57	3	20	
do	Chengal	11	do		...	15	1	10	
	Varidaymullay	47	do		...	75	0	13	
do	Lousiana	17	do		...	25	1	17	
do	Stanmore	11	do		...	16	1	1	
do	Goodannie	29	do		...	43	3	14	
do	G. G. S. & Co. Plantation	5	do		...	7	2	22	
Mamally Coffee Works ...	G. G. Hope Plantation	112	do		...	182	0	0	
do	do	496	do		...	744	0	0	
do	Tulloes	170	do		...	276	1	0	
do	do	28	do		...	42	0	0	
do	Guynd	110	do		...	178	3	0	
	Total ...	6,980	bags.						
Lost overboard	...	30	at Mangalore.						
	Total ...	6,950							
Already shipped	...	5,487							
		1,463							
Damaged already sold	...	118	no record as to what estates,						
Balance damaged	...	1,345	bags waiting to be surveyed.						

Great Western Hotel,
Bombay,
7th November, 1918.

MESSRS. T. STANES & CO., LTD.,
Coimbatore.

Coffee account of Greek Government.

Dear Sirs,—Further to your letter of 24th ultimo and in terms of your instructions regarding the 1,345 bags coffee ex s.s. Bahaduri, now lying in No. 5 Shed—Alexandra Dock—Bombay, I beg to report as follows on my survey. The 1,345 bags after seven days work and sorting I arrive at following results. The work was very slow and tedious owing to the coolies employed being inexperienced and some being unable to lift a bag of cwt. 1-2-14 and the great heat was very trying.

Messrs. Morgan and Son 476 bags classed and made up as follows. All bags I had opened :—

A	Size	252 bags	Mysore Plantation	each cwt. 1-2-0
B	,,	98	,,	,, ,,
C	,,	26	,,	,, ,,
P. B.		45	,,	,, ,,
T.		55	,,	,, ,,

Total...476 bags.

The outward appearance of all denoted sea, damaged, and the contents at the mouths of many of the bags confirmed it, the coffee being blackish, mildewed, in some cases beams sticking to the mouths of the inner bags. I had contents of 1 Bag A, 1 bag B, 1 bag of C and 1 of P. S. emptied. In each case where the upper portion was badly damaged, the remaining portion was barely touched but bleached. Many of the remaining bags that I closely examined contents are only slightly damaged but all are bleached. I must close this report by mentioning that all of the bags used both outer and inner are 1st class, strong and sound and the stitching of all mouths was closely done. The greater part of the inner bags are still sound.

MESSRS. PEIRCE LESLIE & CO., LD.—430 bags Mysore Plantation coffee each cwt. 1-2-14 nett. I had all of the bags opened and outward appearance denoted sea-damaged less or more. I had contents of 4 bags that were badly sea-damaged at the mouth emptied, but the lower portion of each was slightly touched but bleached. I was satisfied from my observation of the remaining bags that the damage was about on a par to contents of the 4 bags emptied.

Quality of bags used and of the stitching. Same remarks as in the case of Messrs. Morgan and Son.

MESSRS. A. J. SALDANHA & SONS.—210 bags Plantation coffee. This lot was certainly in a more damaged condition than those in the two previous reports. I had contents of 3 bags which were very badly damaged at the mouth emptied and contents right through to the bottom had gone bad, mildewed, and, in the case of two bags the inner ones were in a rotten state. All bags used, both outer and inner struck me as being of first quality sound, and stitching alright.

Do. Do. Do. 39 bags Kents *Native* each cwt. 1-2-14 as Plantation. I had all opened as outer bags—denoted having been touched by salt water. Contents on the top appeared

only bleached but on emptying contents of several bags the bottom portion was found damaged. Good bags, both outer and inner were used.

PULLICOON COFFEE WORKS.—41 bags Plantation coffee each cwts. 1-2-14 nett.

A Size	25	bags	All denoted being badly sea-damaged. I had
B „	11	„	all the bags opened and contents of many at the
T „	5	„	mouth had gone quite bad, mildewed, bluish black
	—		with beans sticking to the mouth of the inner bags.
	41		I had 3 bags of A size contents emptied and damage
	—		seemed to have gone right through.

1st class outer and inner bags were used and stitching of the mouths both inner and outer closely done.

MESSRS. VOLKART BROS. J. R. PLANTATION COFFEE. 97 bags each cwt. 1-2-0 nett. All of them denoted sea-damaged. Had contents of 3 bags emptied; the upper portion was badly touched, but below was only bleached, with some beans here and there black.

Good bags both outer and inner were used & stitching closely done.

Do do do MALABAR NATIVE. 38 bags each cwt. 1-2-0 nett. All are sea-damaged more or less. Good bags were used as in the case of their Plantation coffee.

MESSRS. T. STANES & Co, Ld. COFFEE WORKS.

Varidaymullay Plantation	B size	2 bags	each cwts.	1-2-14 nett.
„ „	Triage	1 „	„	0-2-14 „
Walliawarrum	B size	1 „	„	1-2-14 „
Goodannie	Triage	1 „	„	1-2-14 „

All of the above from appearance of the outer bags denoted being sea-damaged. I had all the bags opened and contents of 1 bag Varidamullay B size emptied and the bottom portion was badly sea-damaged, some beans being black bluish and mildewed; the remaining bags are no better as I tried from turning over some top portion with my right hand. All of the bags used both outer and inner were of 1st class quality and stitching of the mouths closely done.

MAMALLY COFFEE WORKS.—"*Hope.*" 9 bags Plantation. The outer bags have a dirty appearance and from the "yellow patches on each which I take as the effect of salt water on gunny. I had all 9 bags opened and contents carefully examined by taking out a portion from several and a few emptied. The top portion and to a certain part the coffee seemed only bleached, but from the emptied contents the bottom portion is badly sea-damaged.

The bags used both the outer and inner ones are of 1st class quality and the stitching of the mouths done closely and tight.

The 1,345 bags since then were being re-stitched and I was told by the Deputy Manager of the Port Trust will have to be re-heaped again as they are occupying too much space of No. 5 shed.

I have done by best in this survey on behalf of all concerned.

I remain, Dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. W. HOLLAND.

Army Headquarters, India.
Quartermaster-General's Branch,
Simla, the 9th November, 1918.

Dear Mr. Norton,—I have received your letter on the 28th October asking that a further order should be placed for Mysore Coffee for Army requirements and have given the matter very full consideration in consultation with my administrative directors.

I am sorry to say that owing to difficulties in obtaining at the present time in India, suitable coffee grinding machines we have as yet been able to make only infinitesimal issues of the 180 tons of coffee purchased from the Coffee Planters of Southern India in July last, and I fear until that difficulty is solved that I should not be justified in placing any further orders.

The Coffee canteens you refer to in Mesopotamia must, I imagine, belong to the Expeditionary Field Force Canteen which is managed direct by the War Office without any reference to us.

I am sorry that for the moment I cannot accede to the Coffee Planters' request, but will bear the matter in mind.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) E. A. ALTHAM.

Fletcher Norton, Esq.,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Labour Department.

4, Ulsoor Road, Bangalore, S. India,
15th November, 1918.

TO THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—With reference to "Ferns" enquiry about bracken in Tea, it is certainly exhausting to the soil, and its matted roots interfere with the development of the tea roots. If pulled up once a fortnight with a straight upward pull so as to break off the fern at its joint with the main roots, and not by cutting it or breaking it at ground level, it gradually dies out, and the rotten roots left behind serve to some extent as a manure to the tea. Twelve such regular weedings not more than two weeks apart will result in death by starvation.

AYLMER Ff. MARTIN.

25, South Parade,
Bangalore, 13th November, 1918.

TO HONORARY SECRETARIES,
North Mysore and South Mysore Indian Planters' Associations.

Coffee Combine.

Dear Sir,—I write to you on behalf of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, to invite your co-operation in securing a proper price for Coffee grown in South India, a matter of vital importance to the Industry. As many Coffee Planters as possible should adhere to the scheme in order

to make it a certain success. I send you to-day a copy of the *Planters' Chronicle* of the 9th instant and invite your attention to the proceedings of the Meeting of Curers and Planters held in Mangalore on the 3rd instant, published on page 735 and to the Thermometer on the previous page which shows that 5,854 tons was promised in support before the date of publication. A further amount of 2,146 tons is requireed before the 20th December to make the plan effective. Seeing that the object of the Combine is to benefit all Coffee Growers, the U. P. A. S. I. looks wtth confidence to your hearty co-operation in the matter. The minimum prices for which all should hold out are Rs. 45 per cwt. ex-godown and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36/8 for ungarbled Native ex-godown. Please collect from your members at the earliest possible date the tonnage of coffee they are prepared to put on the Combine and send the particulars direct to this office when they will be duly published.

Trusting you will do your best by taking immediate steps to secure the adherence of as great a tonnage of Coffee as possible.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

(Signed) AYLMER Ff. MARTIN,
Acting Secretary.

The Giri, 16-11-18.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—I much regret we've no details of Curers arguments in favour of private auction or sales - I note it is called "the present system."

I thought the one thing we were probably going to gain, was a Public auction over and above a minimum price.

I had looked forward to some one quite disinterested being in the Box, as they have the experience of Messrs. Payne & Co.'s Representative for choice.

To see my prices published in the "Chronicle" can do me no more good than reading my own obituary notice in that paper—though even that, from you Mr. Editor, might be more flattering.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. RAIKES.

Ubban Estate,
Hassan, 20th November, 1918.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—Might I venture to point out two errors that crept into my letter kindly published in your issue of the 16th instant. They were in the last para, the first occurring in the fourth line of the same should read, be induced to grow nicely by partly *stumping*, etc. not "planting." The last was in the penultimate sentence beginning "his personal observation" it should be "my personal observation."

Yours faithfully,
J. G. H. CRAWFORD.

18-11-18.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.
Bangalore.

Re-extension of Coffee Sales.

Dear Sir,—I suggest that, central office be established to which curers should send lists of the various lots of coffee available for sale together with several samples of each lot, and stating the price f. o. r. per cwt. or maund (25 lbs.) The central office would then forward to each town selected for holding auctions, the list of the various lots with samples stating the minimum price fixed for each town (*i.e.*, f. o. b. or f. o. r. prices plus freight, etc).

Say an auction was in Bombay on the 6th of the month, after it the auctioneer would advise the central office of what had been sold, whereupon the central office would advise, say, Karachi (say the next place to have on auction) of what had been sold in Bombay. No town would hold an auction until advised by the central office of what coffee was available. Should planters wish to sell coffee they could send their samples and prices direct to the central office instead of instructing their agents to do so. Anyone could buy or withdraw at any time by advising the central office.

Each lot would have to be one grade only but could be sold in half or quarter lots, if desired. Coffee sold would be despatched direct to the auctioneer who sold it but all payments should go through the central office—Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Karachi, Rangoon, Penang and Singapore would be good places to start with and also Aden, Busra and Baghdad—extending to other towns which might promise well.

O. W. M.

TO THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Combine for Fair Prices for Coffee.

Dear Sir,—The rise in the Thermometer shown in your issue of the 16th is very disappointing—only 150 tons, compared with the rise of 1,440 in the previous week, despite the splendid news of the cessation of hostilities which must result in the increase of available tonnage for the shipment of our produce to the European markets which are starving for want of supplies of coffee. There are only five more weeks in which the thermometer must be increased by further 2,000 tons to decide the vital question whether the Combine is to stand or fall, and I appeal to all its supporters to strive their utmost to prevent its collapse. If every subscriber will try and influence further subscriptions to the tonnage by approaching neighbouring planters, European and Indian, to join. I feel sure the extra 2,000 tons will be easily made up. Possibly the Indian planters in Mysore alone could contribute the deficiency if the advantages of the Combine are explained to them. Messrs. F. Latreille & Son's circular in your issue of the 16th should put heart into the movement. The facts stated therein as to the shortage of Coffee in the United Kingdom are at variance with those stated in the letter from the Government of Madras, published in the same issue, page 762, but are doubtless more reliable. That letter, by the way, was written before the Armistice was signed, and we can reasonably hope for some modifications in the restrictions of tonnage for our crops now that new ships are being turned out from shipyards all over the world, and the evil work of the U boat is at an end for ever, please God.

Yours faithfully,

November 20th, 1918. H. H.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 48.] NOVEMBER 30, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, returned to Headquarters, Bangalore, on Saturday, the 23rd instant.

With much regret we have to record the death of Mr. Ivon Ross Porter of the Santaveri Estate, on November 2nd, 1918, at the Sanderson Ward, Chickmaglur, of pneumonia after influenza.

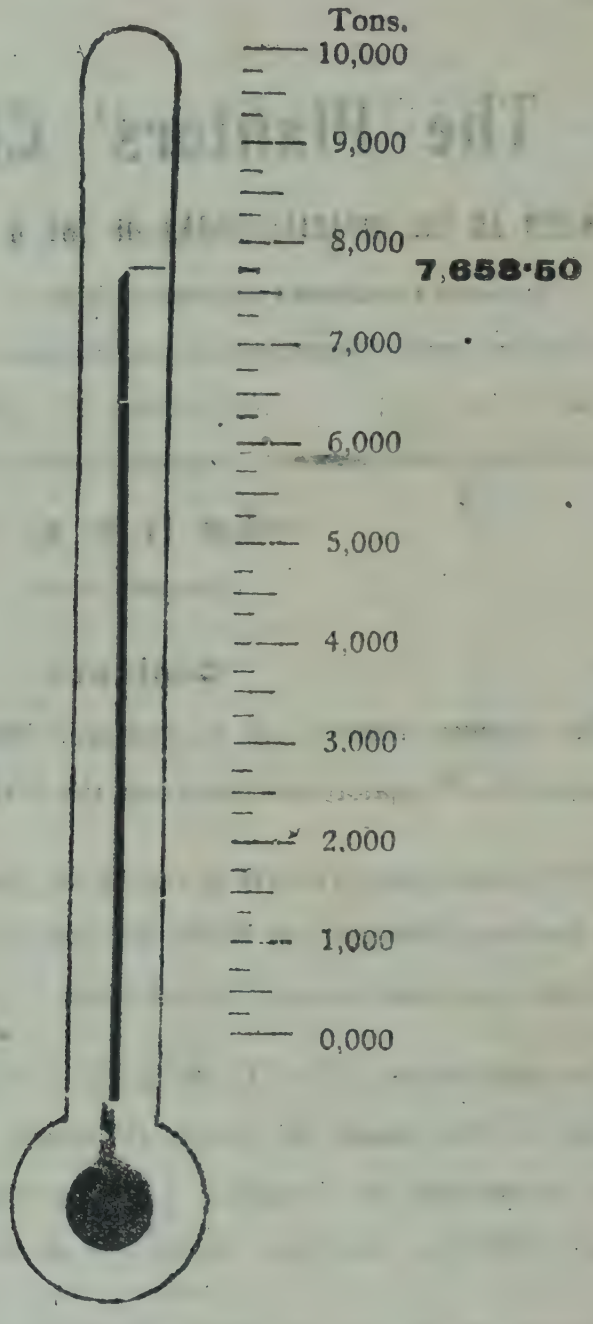
Correspondence:—The U. P. A. S. I. Secretaryship. Unfavourable Comment in the *South of India Observer*. Retail Tea Sales. South Indian Association in London. Unremunerative Coffee. Army Coffee. Damaged Coffee at Bombay. Greek Government Contracts.

The I. D. F. and Planters. Dangers of leaving Estates for long periods. A plea for the relaxation of drills and camps.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	84,510	10	3
Mr. J. M. Wilkie	240	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
Unity	151	0	0
Total Rs...	84,931	10	3

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 45 per cwt. ex go-down and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt. for ungarbled Native ex go-down amounts to date to **7,658½** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

The U. P. A. S. I. Secretaryship.

Dear Sir,—The following leaderette appeared in the *South of India Observer* of the 23rd instant, under the above heading, and it will perhaps be of interest to your planting readers to know what impression others had regarding the agitation for a reformed U. P. A. S. I.

"BUSINESS."

The *Observer* remarks:—The *Planters' Chronicle* announces that the new Secretary of the United Planters' Association is to be Mr. H. Waddington, the Assistant Director of the Association's Labour Department, and the two duties are thus to be under one official. This can hardly be considered a sound move, as the efficiency of both departments must necessarily suffer, as one cannot prove a success except at the expense of the other. From opinions we have been favoured with from the planting community, we have been under the impression that what the Association required was a trained and experienced Secretary to re-organise the whole Secretarial work on up to date lines, with a separate superintendent under him for the special requirements of the Labour Department. We were further led to believe that the work of the latter necessitates its directing officer to be constantly away on tour, and if this is the case, we fail to realise how an absentee secretary can be conducive to efficiency in the far more important work of his own office. In the official report of the Planters' Conference at Cochin on the 7th May last, it was stated by a member that "He had heard unofficially that Mr. Waddington would be asked to accept the Secretaryship," so we must presume the planters have some explanation for combining two such dissimilar duties as those of a resident General Secretary and the Executive officer of a widely scattered labour force. A glorified cooly catching arrangement is not, we think, what the planters expected as the ultimate result of all their agitation for a reformed U. P. A. S. I.

Tea.

The Acting Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. had the pleasure of meeting Mr. John Harper, the representative of the Indian Tea Cess Commissioner for India, on the 28th instant, and thinks the following information will be of interest to Tea Planters.

Indian wholesale buyers get a tea suitable for the market at 7 annas a lb. delivered at the Railway Station. It is distributed to retailers and costs them 8 as. a lb. These retailers are supplied free with 250 envelopes at a time and a small measure which holds one-third of an ounce of tea sufficient for 6 cups. They can sell these packets at 3 pies each with a profit to themselves.

Mr. Harper visited 147 small retailers doing this trade in Bangalore, and 95 shops in which tea in the liquor with milk and sugar added, was being sold. These are not the only shops in Bangalore.

In many other centres the same trade is being done, and it is on the increase.

Rubber Shipments.

The following telegram has been received:—

"There will be an allotment of 500 tons rubber in steamer due Tuticorin eleventh proximo, Cochin thirteenth, Calicut Sixteenth. Dates approximate only.—Homeward."

The Acting Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. has taken it upon himself to allot

to Tuticorin	...	...	82½ tons
to Cochin	...	...	335 tons
to Calicut	...	...	82½ tons
		Total...	500 tons

The following firms have been requested to arrange the proportionate amount to be shipped for each estate shipping rubber from the ports mentioned:

Messrs. Harvey Bros, Tuticorin
Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., Ltd., Cochin
Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Co., Ltd., Calicut.

South Indian Association in London.

21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.
London, 2nd October, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I last wrote on 25th September, and have now to acknowledge your letter of 2nd August.

IMPORT OF JAVA TEAS.—The resolution passed at the meeting of the Central Travancore Planters' Association held on 11th July with regard to the recent permission of the Australian Government to allow Java teas to be imported, will be brought before my Committee at a meeting called for early next week, and I will report due result in the course.

RUBBER.—I have to confirm the cable of 27th ultimo:—

"Officialiy informed by India Office thousand tons monthly since first January reserved Rubber from India and Ceylon, controlled by General Conference, Calcutta. If you apply through Sub-Conference, Madras, your proportion must be allotted. Try also for arrears Report result," which I trust has reached you safely. The question of the space reserved for rubber from India and Ceylon has been before the Ministry of Shipping, and the reply was to the effect that the quantity of 1,000 tons monthly has remained unchanged since the beginning of the year. The allocation of this space is left to the discretion of the Indian General Conference, Calcutta, who are kept closely in touch with the position at Bombay, Madras and Colombo, and any representation should be made to the Calcutta body through the local sub-conference. Sir Joseph Maclay is of opinion any claims for share of space will receive due consideration as regards the interests of shippers from Madras and Malabar coasts so far as the limited tonnage available will allow. It was also suggested some effort should be made to arrange for arrears not allotted to be forwarded. I await any reply you may send.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

Calicut, 7th November, 1918.

Dear Sir,—Messrs. Leslie and Anderson write to us under date the 18th September last as follows :—

"COFFEE.—We note the position on your side which is altogether satisfactory so far as the clearance out of the 1916-17 crop and prospects for the coming crop, but we agree with you the question as regards freight for the 1918 crop is still obscure, and prospects at the moment are not very hopeful.

In conversation with a friend who has resided many years in Rio de Janeiro, and is still fully occupied in his business with Brazilian Coffee, we have learnt that the damage from a severe frost reported some weeks age is more serious this season in Brazil than usual. He tells us that of course the older trees have not been so seriously damaged but the younger coffee has suffered heavily, with the result that a proportion, he estimates from 15-25% of these younger trees have had to be cut down to the root, and there is no doubt in his mind that the yield from Brazil for the next three years will be considerably less than in recent years. Estimates of the present crop vary from 6-8 million bags, which, of course, is very small, compared to the 10-12 million which may be called average crops. You will be further interested to learn that despite the lack of freight and heavy accumulation of coffee both at Brazilian ports and in the interior of Brazil, prices there are higher than at any of the large importing markets, viz., New York, Havre etc., and it would seem the Government in Brazil is buying up stocks freely, no doubt with the idea that at the termination of the War they will be able to sell their product at full prices. We pass this on to you for what it may be worth as interesting to your clientele of Planters, and for ourselves we believe, the future prospects for Coffee prices after the war are more satisfactory than they have been for many years."

Yours faithfully,

Peirce, Leslie & Co., Ltd.,

TO THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Unremunerative Coffee.

Sir,—I have read Mr. Crawford's letter under the above heading in your issue of 16th instant. Doubtless the "unremunerative and patchy coffee" on any Estate could be transformed on his lines at a very large outlay. The point is, 'is the game worth the candle?' I fancy many planters will agree with me that it would be far cheaper in the beginning, and far more profitable in the end, to open a piece of virgin jungle to compensate for the shuck patches. There can be few Estates which do not possess sufficient jungle for this purpose adjoining the cultivation. Mr. Crawford says these patches are "a danger to the Estate and a nursery for leaf disease and borer"; though, as neither leaf nor borer confines its attention to shuck coffee, I fail to see why such shuck patches should be any better "nursery" for these pests than the good coffee round them. But if this is found to be the case, the patches can be rooted out. I admit they are unsightly; but where coffee is grown for profit, the *dulce* must perforce give way to the *utile*. Only men to whom expense is no object—and these lucky individuals are few and far between, could afford to spend more on renovation than renovation is worth.

'To dig or not to dig—that is the question.' Mr. Crawford answers it with an emphatic affirmative. I gave the views of the opposite school very fully in the *Chronicle* of October 7th and November 18th, 1916, and I do

not intend to inflict them on your readers again. I only allude to the matter here to ask whether Mr. Crawford is right in holding that Mr. Anstead is on the side of the 'digger'. Mr. Crawford writes :—" His personal observation points to the necessity for digging all coffee at least every second year, preferably annually, or if expense is not a factor twice in the twelve "months". As in the preceding sentence Mr. Crawford referred to Mr. Anstead, I take the possessive pronoun I have italicised to mean :—" Mr. Anstead's personal observation points, &c. &c." It cannot refer to Mr. Crawford himself, as he writes his letter in the first person. I can find nothing in Mr. Anstead's letter published in your issue of 2nd November to support this assertion. What Mr. Anstead does say is " Where the soil gets out of condition and cakes hard in the hot weather, digging undoubtedly becomes necessary, but I would never advocate the digging of good coffee just for the sake of digging." In a brochure written by Mr. Anstead for the Mysore Government, and published in 1915 by the Mysore Government Press, he writes :—" In some cases soil becomes hard and puddled from wrong treatment, or it may become so full of the roots of shade trees that the coffee suffers. In such cases deep digging may be necessary and unavoidable, but as a general rule after the first three or four years (from opening) and once the coffee has closed in it should not be dug deeply, that is in such a way as to cut the feeding roots, if that treatment can possibly be avoided." In all his published opinions on this vexed question that I have seen, Mr. Anstead has made two recommendations :(—1) that in old coffee, especially coffee in a clay soil, where owing to bad treatment the soil cakes in the hot weather, a deep digging is unfortunately imperative, and in such a case the planter must just set his teeth and carry it out ; but that deep digging should never be done where it can possibly be avoided. On this I would say that where the mulch from a good jat shade tree like dadap is carefully conserved, the soil never cakes, and so the only condition which, in Mr. Anstead's view, necessitates a deep digging never arises. (2) that a surface-scratching in the hot weather, merely to break the capillary tubes and thus prevent rapid evaporation of the surface moisture, is beneficial.

These recommendations certainly do not evince the belief in digging on the part of Mr. Anstead that Mr. Crawford attributes to him. On the contrary, and judging from what he has said in print on the subject, I would take Mr. Anstead to be a staunch opponent of digging, in the usual acceptation of that word, and as Mr. Crawford defines it in the passage from his letter I have quoted above.

SOPHOS.

Peravanthanam Estate,
Mundakayam P. O.,
S. India.
20—11—1918.

TO THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of the 16th instant, your compositor has a field day in the way of misprinting letters and altering letters. May I be allowed to call attention to the most flagrant correction which he thinks fit to make in my letter *re.* the Straits Rubber Commission. I wrote you in clear type as follows :—" America recently LIMITED ITS imports or plantation rubber to the distinct advantage of Fine Hard Para, and still more recently President Wilson has firmly demanded Free Trade amongst all the allied countries,"

This you print as—"America recently ADMITTED THE imports of plantation rubber etc."—This complete alteration of two words entirely destroys the sense of the sentence.

Sir George Barnes' letter to Sir Fairless Barber in this issue rather emphasises my point *re*, the need of advice from our leaders restriction.

He writes, "The representatives of the rubber industry in the Colony (Ceylon) agrees to the compulsory restriction of the output of rubber, provided that there is a WORLD'S RESTRICTION."

Are we to welcome compulsory restriction of plantation rubber without any restriction of Fine Hard Para ?

Yours faithfully,

H. B. KIRK.

8, Cambridge Road,

Bangalore, November 21st, 1918.

Dear Mr. Norton,—I would like to express my gratitude to all the friends who have so kindly and generously responded to my request for books, etc., during the last two months. Especially do I thank Mr. Wilkie for the 4 large cases of books, papers, magazines, games and above all; 2 pairs of boxing gloves; A most welcome and useful gift. Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Mann and Mrs. F. Hamilton each sent a box. Mrs. Browne, Mr. Nicolls and Mrs. Bake have all most kindly sent papers and magazines. Mr. Edwin Vincent sent a big case and a promise of more; To all who have so kindly remembered me, I tender my most sincere thanks—also the grateful thanks of the men both from the Hospital and the different Institutes that have benefited.

Yours sincerely,

LOUISE ANSTEAD.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle.

Army Coffee.

Sir,—In your issue of 23rd inst. you print a letter to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. signed E. A. Altham, and despatched from Army Headquarters, Quartermaster General's Branch, Simla, in which that official says "he would not be justified in placing any further orders" for coffee "as he has as yet been able to make only infinitesimal issues of the 180 tons purchased in July last, owing to difficulties in obtaining at the present time in India suitable coffee grinding machines."

In face of the fact that roasted coffee can be powdered just as effectively in the ordinary wooden rice pounder used in every native house as in the most elaborate coffee grinder, the reason assigned for the non-issue of coffee bought last July for Army purposes, and the non-purchase of a further supply, is simply far—perhaps I had better say distinctly humorous. We shall hear next that Tommy has been deprived of his meat ration owing to the difficulty in obtaining Lea and Perrins' Worcestershire Sauce. Truly the ways of the little tin gods are beyond the comprehension of the ordinary mortal.

F.

Greek Government Coffee Sale.

The cable sent by Mr. Lake to Mr. Brooke-Mockett published in the last issue of the *Chronicle* was authorised by me, as I did not feel qualified to reply and one was required quickly.

Mr. Lake's letter of the 21st instant on this subject is now published for general information, and I trust all Coffee Planters approve of and confirm the action taken.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Acting Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

Wartyhully Estate,
Saklaspur P. O., Mysore Estate,
November 21st, 1918.

THE SECRETARY,
The U. P. A. S. I., Bangalore,

Greek Government Contract.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for your letter and telegram of the 19th instant and in reply I have to-day telegraphed to you as follows : —

"Have cabled Mockett as follows begins to offer Greece two thousand at seventy-five shillings of better per cwt. f. o. b. coast ends. Please publish for information which I now confirm.

Sh. 75 per cwt. with exchange at one and sixpence is equivalent to Rs. 50 per cwt. f. o. b. which is the original figure fixed by the Combine for Parchment coffee and I do not think this is too high a price for us to ask. It does not at all follow that because we accepted Rs. 46 last season, we should do so again this time for a similar contract. We were then passing through what was a serious crisis for the Industry but now that the War is over, we look for and shall undoubtedly obtain much better prices if we hold out for them.

The matter being an urgent one there was unfortunately no time to refer it to District Associations, but I trust they will confirm my action in the matter.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) C. LAKE,
Vice-Chairman, U. P. A. S. I.

Damaged Coffee Lying at Bombay.

With reference to letter from Messrs. Cory Bros., to Messrs. Stanes & Co., dated 21st instant, and Messrs. Stanes & Co's reply to the above, dated 25th November published below, will all those interested in the matter kindly communicate their wishes to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., 25, South Parade, Bangalore.

1. Is the coffee to be auctioned in Bombay?

2. Is it to be re-shipped to Mangalore, regarbled and then sold by auction?

3. Is the damaged stuff to be replaced by good coffee?

4. Who is to pay all the charges incurred including Mr. Holland's and Messrs. Stanes & Co's. bills?

Bombay, 21st November, 1918.

MESSRS. T. STANES & CO., LTD.,
Coimbatore.

Dear Sirs,—We thank you for your letter dated 15th instant enclosing copies of Mr. Holland's report.

We have communicated by cable with the Minister of Supplies, Athens, asking for his definite authority to sell to the best advantage, and on receipt of that authority we will have Athens Bills printed and will send you a supply which you will perhaps be good enough to circulate among buyers with whom you may be acquainted.

Will you please ask Mr. Holland to return to us the Bills of Lading which we let him have and oblige.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) .....
Per Pro Cory Bros. Co., Ltd.

Coimbatore, 25th November, 1918.

MESSRS. CORY BROS. & CO., LTD.,
Royal Insurance Buildings,
Churchgate Street, Bombay.

Coffee on account of Greek Government.

Dear Sirs,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant and note that you have communicated by cable with the Minister of Supplies, Athens, for instructions to sell the coffee in question to the best advantage; we note you will then proceed to arrange for an auction of the coffee in Bombay.

As we undertook to report on the coffee at the request of the United Planters' Association of South India, our private recommendations to them have been submitted, and we therefore beg to suggest that you address them to the matter before finally arranging for the auctioning up of the coffee in case they consider any other steps should be taken in the matter.

At the same time if the coffee is to be auctioned in Bombay we beg to suggest that copies of the notice be circulated among all the curing firms interested in the same, so that they may also make the auction known amongst their dealers.

We beg to return to you herewith the Bills of Lading for the shipments of coffee from Mangalore to Bombay and Mr. Holland much regrets that by mistake he brought these away with him. They were inadvertently placed amongst his other papers and we apologise for the delay in returning them to you.

Yours faithfully,
For T. Stanes & Co., Limited
(Signed) F. J. STANES,
Director.

November 26th, 1918.

THE EDITOR,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

The I. D. F. and the Planters.

Dear Sirs,—Doubtlessly many of us have read of the recent disturbances caused by a West Coast Regiment, and at the same time recalled to mind the trouble given by, I think, a couple of Mopla Regiments in Bangalore, some dozen or more years ago, who, owing to their general insubordinate behaviour had ultimately to be disbanded.

This should surely give much food for thought to those responsible in calling out planters for long periods of training away from their estates, leaving no European thereon.

A battalion, I believe, has some 12 European officers or so, who possess very wide powers in the enforcement of discipline, even to the extent of close confinement and jailing, and should these measures prove insufficient, the regiment is ordered out of its own district to some distant military station where stricter discipline can be enforced. The planter on the other hand has no such power to command discipline, he has to merely rely on his personality and authority to maintain order on his estate.

How many estates are there, some very isolated, being miles away from civilization or from the next estate, with only one European in charge, and he frequently was in charge of labour sufficient or more to form a full strength battalion, of exactly similar material to that composing these West Coast Regiments. On this estate alone I have some 50 or 60 Mops who were in the notorious Mopla Regiments at Bangalore. And during the past two years more than 100 of my coolies have joined the forces, however, this is by the way.

Surely when even the military authorities find it at times troublesome to enforce authority on these sturdy and independent sons of the West Coast, they should not insist on planters leaving their estates for long periods of training, (by long periods I mean periods of more than a week during the busy season). But perhaps this is a subtle tribute by the military to the planters in their ability to control this class of labour. However the risks we run of returning to estates and finding things not as satisfactory as they should be, due to the Superintendent's absence, is hardly compensated for by any tribute that may be paid us.

During the war it was right and proper that we should help the military all we could without complaining or grousing, even although it entailed considerable inconvenience and often considerable personal expenditure and out of pocket expenses. Now that peace is once more practically prevailing, I trust that total abolition or at least a great measure of relaxation in the observance of compulsory attendance at drills and camps, will be announced at the very earliest opportunity.

In this letter I am speaking more for the rubber planters on the West Coast, Cochin and Travancore, although I have little doubt this applies equally to the tea planters of other districts as well.

Yours faithfully,
NEMO.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 49.] DECEMBER 7, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

NOTE.—Owing to public rejoicings, the *Chronicle* is published a day earlier than usual, and therefore it is not so full as usual.

The Fair Price Combine. Steady Progress. Wynaad Planters' Association. Meeting at Meppadi Club.

Correspondence:—The Late Mr. Gillman. Unremunerative Coffee, Ripe Cherry Coffee. Release from Military Duty. The Export of Coffee to France after the War.

Copy of telegram sent to His Excellency the Governor of Madras on the 14th November by the Acting Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. under instructions from J. S. Nicolls Esq., Chairman:—

The Chairman and Members of the United Planters' Association of Southern India request that your Excellency will kindly convey the expression of our loyalty to His Majesty the King on the occasion of the armistice which brings the war to a close and our humble and heartfelt thanksgiving for the happy and long expected satisfactory result.—Martin.

The Honorary Secretary and Joint Honorary Treasurer of the Imray Fund desires to thank the Committee and Subscribers of the South India Planters' Benevolent Fund for Rs. 3,000 contributed towards starting the sons of the late Mr. A. J. Imray in life, and to convey the cordial appreciation of this generous contribution felt by all connected with the Imray Fund in this country which will be endorsed by those at Home when they receive it.

South India Planters' War Fund.

The War we all believe has ended thank God in the complete defeat of our enemies. In recognition of this great fact it is now announced that the South India Planters' War Fund should be closed on the 31st December 1918 on the distinct understanding that if hostilities recommence, the Fund will be re-opened, when subscribers, it is felt certain, will gladly resume payment of the subscriptions they promised.

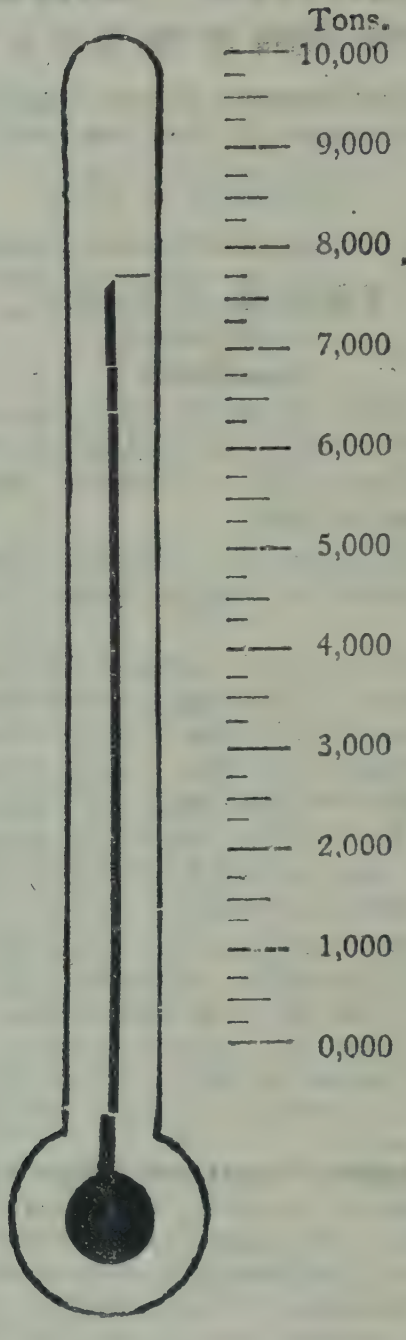
Will all those who have not yet paid up in full, kindly forward the balance due by them before the date mentioned above.

AYLMER FF. MARTIN,
Acting Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

SOUTH INDIA PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	84,931	10	3
Mr. Campbell Hunt	30	0	0
Mr. A. J. Wright, Munnar	20	0	0
Total Rs...	84,981	10	3

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 45 per cwt. ex go-down and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt. for ungarbled Native ex go-down amounts to date to **7,831½** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on November 20th, 1918.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Craig, Eyre, McBain, MacLeod, Mackay, Malcolm, Powell, and Abbott (Honorary Secretary.)

VISITORS.—Mr. J. N. Hartle, Executive Engineer, Manantoddy, Shoranur Railway Survey, Mr. R. Fowke.

MR. EYRE IN CHAIR.

PROCEEDINGS OF LAST MEETING.—These were confirmed.

2412. ENDORSING WARRANTS.—Read letter to District Superintendent of Police, South Malabar from Honorary Secretary, enclosing list of names of those authorised to endorse warrants in the absence of Superintendents. Since the Meeting Mr. Windle D. S. P. in acknowledging the letter has suggested that the authorisations should be written in Malayalam. It was mentioned by a Member that Constables have asked to have warrants endorsed in other cases than those concerned with the Madras Planters.

Note.—MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR LAW.—Since the Meeting a letter has been received from Mr. Hall, I. C. S., Additional District Magistrate, calling attention to Clause 4 of the Act and Rule 2 framed under it by which it is required that all *labourers'* contracts shall be written in English *as well as a language understood by the labourer.* He has asked me to impress upon Members that labour contracts which are not in accordance with the rules will not be enforced in future. I have replied (1) asking that the rule may not be enforced in the case of contracts made before this notice. (2) referring to correspondence with Mr, Cammiade, Divisional Officer four years ago, in which I pointed out that it is in practice impossible for us to get contracts written in the various languages spoken by the coolies we employ. Also that Tulu and Konkany spoken by the South Canara coolies are not written languages. The rule has not been enforced since then. I have consulted other members and we think we ought to try to get it rescinded. Its strict enforcement would mean a very serious loss to our Maistries, and our labour troubles are already quite sufficient.

C. E. ABBOTT,
Honorary Secretary.

2413. LOSS OF PAPERS IN THE POST.—(para 2410) Read letter to Post Master General and his reply stating that the matter was receiving his attention.

2414. GRAIN SHORTAGE.—Read letter from Mr. R. B. Wood, I. C. S., Director of Civil Supplies to the Chairman U. P. A. S. I., forwarded to the Association asking if Mysore grain export had been further restricted. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to reply that it has been. While for

the present supplies of raggi are sufficient from local crops the question of rice supplies has become serious as very little is being brought to this part of Wynaad from Mysore and the price in Calicut is rising every week. It has gone up from Rs. 11 to Rs. 18 per bag to which cart hire has to be added. It is reliably reported that a further rise is expected. Mr. Winterbotham has since written to say that grain is being sent from Wynaad to Mysore.

2415. RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.—The alterations proposed by the Committee appointed at last Meeting (para. 2408) were discussed and approved. The Committee was thanked for their work. The rules as revised are to be printed.

2416. SHORANUR-MANANTODDY RAILWAY.—Mr. Hartle, Executive Engineer, who was present, kindly explained the proposed route of the Railway and the possible alternative routes. A discussion followed. The Meeting was of opinion that the most suitable sites for stations would be at Devala; Pundalur (near Mango Range); Cherambadi; near Trikapetta (for Meppadi); and, if possible, at Kalpatty. With reference to alignment it was felt that the best chance of getting the railway constructed in the near future was to adopt the easiest and cheapest route. From Mr. Hartle's remarks the meeting understood that the trace of the ghat section had been completed, and that no tunnelling or other work of any great magnitude was necessary, The anticipated cost provided for such contingencies, The avoiding of tunnelling would on this ghat section alone reduce the anticipated cost by over 20 lakhs. There would no doubt be a further and very considerable saving, as on the original route another tunnel 120 feet deep through the Manikunnu Meppadi ridge was expected and it seems that the line could with no great difficulty be diverted to avoid this. The Chairman desired to thank Mr. Hartle for having attended the Meeting and given us the opportunity of discussing the subject.

2417. ARRACK SHOPS.—Read letter from the Deputy Collector of Wynaad enclosing a list of proposed sites and Honorary Secretary's reply, thanking the Deputy Collector and stating that as all the shop members of the Association had objected to had been closed, he had no remarks to offer.

2418. FOOD CONTROLLER AND TEA. Read correspondence forwarded by the Secretary U. P. A. S. I. regarding the price being paid for tea by the Food Controller on the 1918-19 contract. The Meeting was of opinion that the sooner the tea trade was allowed to return to its normal channel the better. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I, on the subject.

A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the proceedings.

E. E. EYRE,

Chairman,

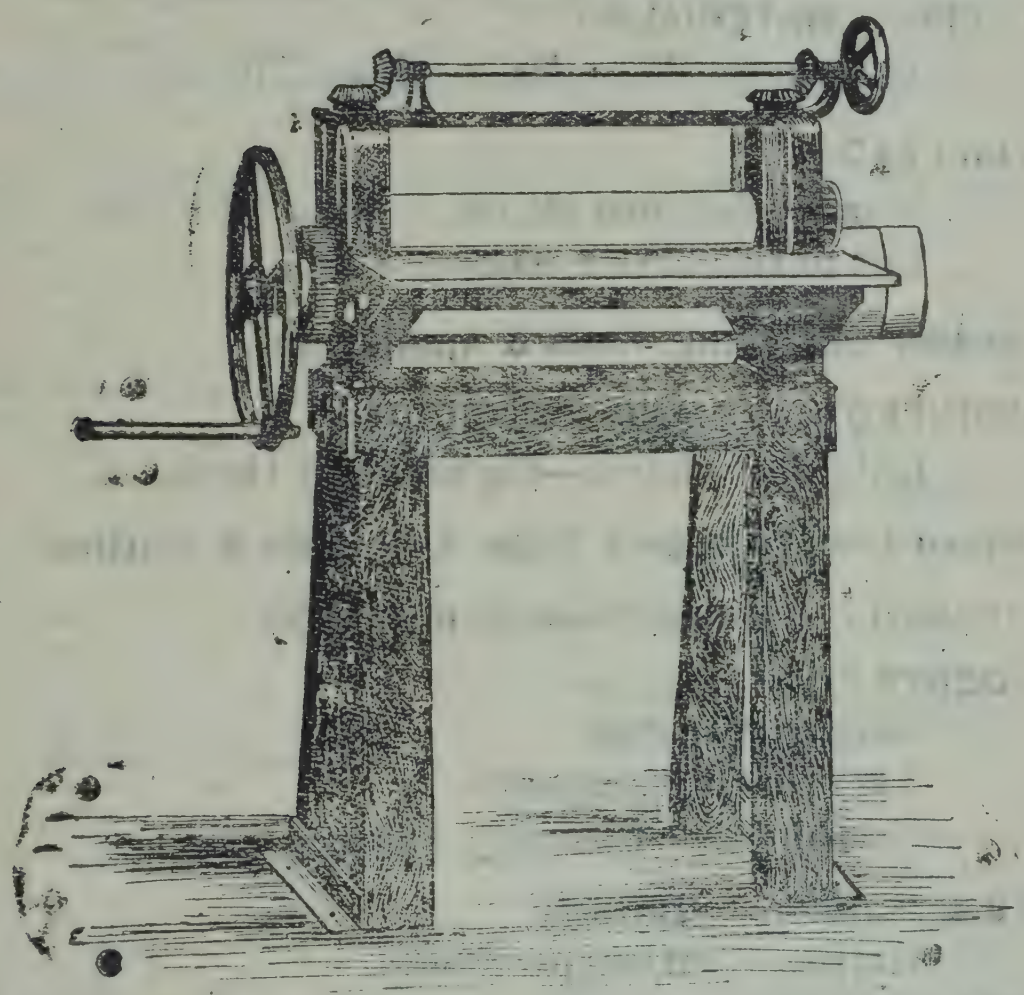
C. E. ABBOTT,

Honorary Secretary.

Harrisons & Crosfield, Ltd.,

QUILON, S. INDIA.

Engineers and Contractors, Builders of Tea and Rubber Factories.



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CORRESPONDENCE.

Ootacamund, 28th November, 1918.

My Dear Todhunter,—At the request of Mr. Nicolls, Chairman of the United Planters' Association of Southern India and on behalf of the Association, I express the regret of all Planters at the death of Mr. Gillman.

As Collector of Coimbatore, Mr. Gillman was in close touch with planting on the Anaimallais and he had many personal friends among planters.

I can speak personally of his unfailing courtesy and kindness and of the interest and attention he has given to any matter I have had to place before him.

We fully realize the great loss that the Government and the country have sustained in this brilliant career, being thus cut short.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) E. F. BARBER.

THE HON'BLE MR. C. G. TODHUNTER, I. C. S.,
Ag. Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Fort St. George.

Unremunerative Coffee.

Ubban, Ballu P.O.,
THE EDITOR, Hassan, December 3rd, 1918.
Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—May I venture to ask for space to reply to Sopho's letter that appeared in your issue of the 30th ultimo.

In this, criticising my communication *re* Unremunerative Coffee published in the *Chronicle* of the 16th idem, he asks is the work of reclamation worth the candle? In a good estate it undoubtedly is for many reasons, to quote a few.

(1) The getting rid of unsightly patches and cosequent general improvement in the appearance of an estate and its value.

(2) In the semi-Malnad where few properties have any reserve of jungle, this must be done or the owner watch his coffee gradually disappear.

(3) The cost of reclaiming is little more than that of planting up virgin land which many do not possess. My coutention in these circumstances is that renovation on proper lines does more than repay. Most of us grow coffee for profit and not altogether for pleasure and estimate, the cost of an undertaking before embarking on it. Sopho's will surely admit that patches materially reduce the value of an estate in addition to making it unsightly. The experience of those unfortunate enough to have these patches is that they do spread. Borer and leaf disease may

not confine their attentions to "struck coffee," the latter though is far more liable to both and thus proves a source of infection. Good healthy coffee is in a measure protected naturally from the ravages of the borer beetle and is more able to resist fungoid disease. The unhealthy condition of the coffee I cut out was entirely due to these pests. The fault was in no way due to the land as the result of the replantings amply testifies. It strikes one as false economy to leave fine soil under effête coffee when it can be reclaimed at a moderate outlay.

Owing to an unfortunate printer's error which was corrected in the *Planters' Chronicle* of the 23rd ultimo my views on digging were ascribed to Mr. Anstead.

Apropor the value of conserving mulch, experiments I think have proved that it forms a host for black rot. During the period I gave up digging I was troubled with this pest, since I resumed this work it has disappeared and my estates have in every way improved. I may add the soil is a deep loam.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. H. Crawford.

Ripe Cherry Coffee.

To the Editor,
Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—Will those who know kindly say what is the value of Ripe Cherry Coffee, sun dried, per struck bushel and also unripe (green) cherry sun dried per struck bushel delivery on the estate.

T. W. E.

Release from Military Duty.

From
Aylmer Ff. Martin, Esq.,
Officiating Secretary of the United Planters'
Association of Southern India, Incorporated,
25, South Parade, Bangalore.

To
The Under-Secretary
to the Government of India,
Department of Commerce and Industry,
Delhi.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 12042, dated Simla, 31st October, 1918 to the Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, dealing in principle with the early release from Military duty of employees of Indian Mercantile Houses. I have the Honour to request that all planters whose early release is desired will receive the same consideration.

2. I am having forms printed in accordance with the detailed information required in your letter referred to above, which will be circulated to all planters' Association in South India, which, when filled in, will be sent to the Secretary, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, through whom they will be submitted to you at as early a date as possible.

3. I have the honour to request that sympathetic consideration may be given in each case, the matter being one of importance to the planting Community in South India.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Officiating Secretary.

Coffee for France.

25, South Parade,
Bangalore, 3rd December, 1918.

From

AYLMER FF. MARTIN, ESQ.,
Ag. Secretary to the United Planters'
Association of Southern India, Bangalore,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Delhi.

Through

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
Madras.

Sir,—I have the honour to request on behalf of this Association that the Government of India will take such immediate steps as may be necessary to get permission for Indian Coffee to be imported into France, that country having always been a big purchaser of Indian Coffee before the war. The re-establishment of the trade immediately will therefore benefit one of our Allies as well as producers of Indian Coffee.

We further request that the intention of the French Authorities to grant the permission for which we ask may be kindly announced, even if shipping is not available for some months so that buyers at present holding back owing to uncertainty of the position, may come forward.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Acting Secretary.

The Planters' Chronicle.

Recognised as the Official Organ of the U. P. A. S. I. Incorporated.

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FLETCHER NORTON,

Managing Editor, Bangalore, S. India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. NO. 50.] DECEMBER 14, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

The Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. returned from leave on the 9th instant and resumed his duties, of which he will be relieved on December 31st 1918 by Mr. H. Waddington, the newly appointed Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. under the re-organisation scheme. These offices will re-open at Coimbatore from January 1st, 1919.

The Director, Labour Department, will be away from Headquarters during the course of next week for a few days.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, left for Coimbatore on the night of the 12th to lecture to Rubber Estate Writers Class in the Agricultural College and with Mr. MacRae to examine them for their diploma. Mr. Anstead is expected to return to headquarters on the 17th instant.

The Manager, Mercantile Bank of India, has asked us to give publicity to the following letter:—

"We have this morning received a telegram from our London Office advising us that the Directors have decided to issue the unallotted 15,000. A shares in the Bank at £12-10-0 to the existing shareholders of the Bank in the ratio of one new share for every three at present held.

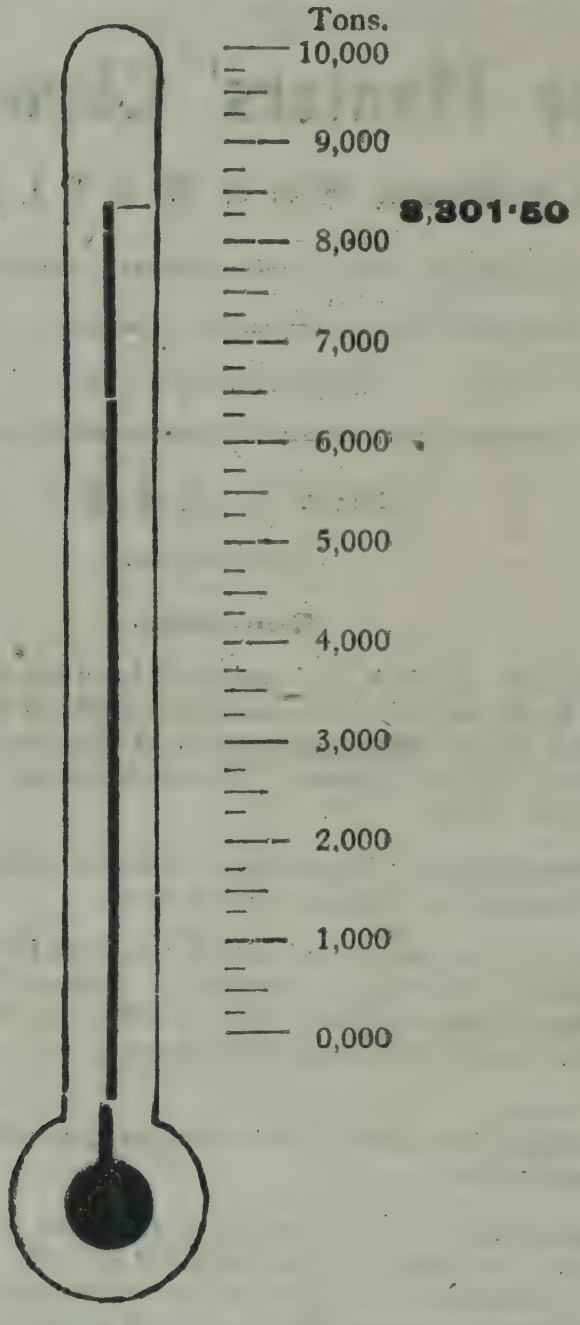
"This will increase the Capital from £562.500 to £750,000. Payment for the shares is due on 15th January 1919 and the new shares will rank for dividend from the first day of the same month."

We publish an article on the Castor Oil plant and Tea contributed by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts.

Also Minutes of a Special General Meeting of ths Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Coffee planters will be glad to learn that the Ministry of Food hope to allocate some tonnage to the United Kingdom for Indian coffee from March onwards, in which connection Mr. Mockett cables "Market improving plantation selling at 80 shillings ex-godown."

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 45 per cwt. ex go-down and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt. for ungarbled Native ex go-down amounts to date to **8,301½** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Castor Oil Plant and Tea.

Some correspondence has been taking place in the *Madras Mail* on this subject in answer to an enquiry made as to why the Castor Oil plant should not be grown in Tea and why in Ceylon its cultivation on Tea estates has been made illegal under the Plant Production Ordinance in force in the Colony.

Various reasons have been given, most correspondents taking it for granted that the Castor itself damages the tea, but no one has yet given the correct explanation, though our old friend and correspondent, Mr. J. R. Leslie Rogers has got near to it.

One of the serious insect pests of Tea in Ceylon is a beetle known as Shot Hole Borer, *Xyleborus fornicatus*. This pest fortunately for us is not known in South India, or if it is, very rare. The female beetle selecting a suitable situation upon the branch of a tea bush chisels out the bark and starts a gallery larger in bore than the girth of the beetle. This gallery passes through the bark and cambium and through the wood and pith horizontally into the wood on the opposite side of the pith. Here it turns parallel to the circumference of the stem and travels in the wood as the first horizontal arm between the bark on the outside and the pith on the inside until it reaches nearly to the point of entrance. The beetle then goes back to the end of the entrance arm and makes a similar horizontal arm in the opposite direction. Vertical arms are also made down and finally up the pith.

The effect of these borings on the tea is that the branches break in the region of the galleries, eyes are destroyed by the entrance gallery passing through them and this leads to subsequent dying back of the branches, while the wood in the empty galleries rots.

Now the point is that this beetle shows a special partiality for Castor as well as Tea, and consequently in any systematic measures of control all Castor Oil Plants must be cut out and burned. As this tree, which grows principally around cooly lines and in villages, harbours the Borer to a greater extent than any other known plant, it should be removed entirely from Tea growing areas. Only the trunks and old branches are attacked but these are generally riddled with hundreds of galleries.

It is reported that in one district in Ceylon where the Castor has been entirely eradicated the tea which was unattacked previously has remained free from the pest, while on more than one estate where Castor was attacked heavily and tea slightly, the Borer has apparently entirely disappeared or at least has been greatly reduced by the removal of the Castor.

This pest is being studied in Ceylon by a special Entomologist; as "X" says they have a way of getting specialists in Ceylon; A Leaflet (No.4 dated May 1917) has been published on the subject by the Ceylon Department of Agriculture to which I would refer those who are further interested and to which I am indebted for much of the above information.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Minutes of a Special General Meeting, held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, at 2 p.m., on 6th December, 1918.

PRESENT.—Mrs. F. Short, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Gompertz, Rev. Father Capelle, Messrs. J. C. Large, S. Campbell, C. K. Short, H. Dickins, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, C. Dickins, H. J. Dyer, A. B. Kundasami, V. S. Wooduviss, S. M. Hight, R. A. Gilby, H. Whittle, C. L. Hight, N. M. Hight, and E. L. Poyser (Acting Honorary Secretary). *Visitors.*—Messrs. H. Waddington (Deputy Director, Labour Department) and C. D. Ryle.

The Notice calling the meeting having been read, the Chairman spoke a few words on the loss the Association and the Shevaroy Hills had sustained in the death of the late Mr. C. G. Lechler, which occurred in Madras on the 10th November last. A vote of sympathy with his widow and family was passed all standing.

"AT HOME" TO CELEBRATE "PEACE" AND RETURN HOSPITALITY TO MR. AND MRS. ROBERTSON.—It was decided that the S. P. A. should be "At Home" to the Station at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 14th December, and a Committee was appointed to organise the entertainment.

ELECTION OF AN HONORARY SECRETARY.—Mr. C. Dickins having had to resign the office of Honorary Secretary on account of ill-health, Mr. Poyser, at the request of the meeting, consented to act as Honorary Secretary until the annual election of office-bearers in January, 1919. Proposed by Mr. Whittle and seconded by Mr. Wooduviss that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. C. Dickins for so ably performing the duties of Honorary Secretary to the S. P. A. during the last ten years. Carried unanimously.

MR. S. M. HIGHT'S LABOUR SCHEME.—The Scheme was discussed in detail with Mr. H. Waddington, Deputy Director, Labour Dept. Mr. Waddington said he hoped to visit the Shevaroys again before long, and set up a Labour Office in Yercaud. A vote of thanks to Mr. Waddington was proposed from the chair for so kindly coming up to attend the meeting, and promising to do his best to meet the Association's Labour difficulties.

GREEK GOVERNMENT COFFEE CONTRACT.—Read telegram from Mr. Lake offering the S. P. A. 212 tons at 75*s*. per cwt., as its share of the contract. The opinion of the meeting was that this price was not sufficiently attractive under present conditions, and as no one present wished to sell, the Honorary Secretary was requested to telegraph to Mr. Lake to this effect.

DAMAGED GREEK GOVERNMENT COFFEE.—Read Circular letter from Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., on this subject, proposing to divide the fees and charges for Mr. Holland's report among the Associations concerned. Resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., and point out that the S. P. A. was not one of the Associations concerned in this matter.

OPENING OF A STORE IN YERCAUD FOR THE SALE OF GRAIN.—Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight and seconded by Mr. Wooduviss that in view of the high price of grains, and to prevent profiteering, the Chairman of the Yercaud Union be approached with a view to obtaining the sanction of the Collector of Salem to start a grain store to sell ragi, rice, and other grains at cost price in Yercaud every day of the week. Carried.

The meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) E. L. POYSER,
Acting Hon. Secretary & Chairman, S.P.A

CORRESPONDENCE.

Coffee.

Intimation has been received from the Under Secretary, Revenue and Special Department, Madras, that the Ministry of Food hope to be able to allocate some tonnage to the United Kingdom for Indian Coffee from March onwards. Purchase by the state is not proposed, but the Coffee is to be shipped and sold through the ordinary trade channels.

R. O. C. No. 929-1039-Govt.

Office of the Director of Agriculture,
Madras, 27th November, 1918.

Analyses.

From

G. A. D. Stuart, Esq., I. C. S.,
Director of Agriculture,
Madras.

To the Secretary,
United Planters' Association,
Southern India, Bangalore.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of 6th September 1918, I have the honour to inform you that Government have sanctioned the taking over of all analytical work at Coimbatore from 1st January 1919:—

The following scale of fees will be charged:—

A. Soils.

		Rs.	a.	p.
1.	Complete chemical analyses including the available Potash and Phosphoric Acid ...	25	0	0
2.	Mechanical analyses ...	5	0	0
3.	Complete chemical and mechanical analyses ...	30	0	0

B. Fertilisers.

1.	Potash in Potassic fertilisers ...	5	0	0
2.	Phosphoric Acid total and citrate soluble in phosphoric fertilisers ...	5	0	0
3.	Organic matter, insoluble matter, and nitrogen in poonacs, etc. ...	5	0	0
4.	Organic matter, insoluble matter nitrogen and phosphoric acid in bones, fish, etc. ...	5	0	0
5.	Complete analysis of fertilisers, such as general mixture, composts, cattle manure, etc. ...	15	0	0
6.	Do. do. lime, lime stone etc. ...	5	0	0
7.	Analysis of ashes	5	0	0
8.	Do. of saltpetre (Potash and Nitrogen) ...	5	0	0

Note.—As the fees payable by members will be collected for the Department by the Secretary of the Association, a discount of 10 per cent. will be allowed to all members of the United Planters' Association, Southern India.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. A. D. Stuart,
Director of Agriculture.

25, South Parade,
Bangalore, 3rd December, 1918.

Coffee.

From

AYLMER FF. MARTIN, ESQ.,
Ag. Secretary of the United Planters'
Association of Southern India (Incorporated)
Bangalore.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF MADRAS,
Madras.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose my letter addressed per your favour to the Secretary to the Government of India, Delhi, which speaks for itself.

I request that this may be forwarded with your favourable endorsement. The Coffee trade of India at present is at a standstill, there being no enquiries for the product such as would normally be the case at this time of year, owing to the uncertainty of the position.

Hostilities having ceased there seems to be no reason why this uncertainty should continue to the great detriment of the trade.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. FF. MARTIN,
Ag. Secretary.

25, South Parade,
Bangalore, 3rd December, 1918.

From

AYLMER FF. MARTIN, ESQ.,
Ag. Secretary of the United Planters' Association
of Southern India, (Incorporated) Bangalore.

To

THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,
London.

Right Hon'ble Sir,—I have the honour to confirm the following cablegram sent you to-day from this Association :—

" Pray immediate total removal of embargo on Indian Coffee into
" United Kingdom be granted and facilities for shipping given—
" United Planters' Association, Southern India."

We believe that at present permission has been granted for only some 1,500 tons of this seasons crop to be imported into the United Kingdom and none into France.

The amount available for export is estimated at 12,000 tons,

We crave early attention for this matter as permission was granted two years ago when it was too late to take advantage of it and prices fell heavily in consequence, causing much loss to Coffee Planters.

We further respectfully request that the intention to grant permission for which we ask may be publicly announced even if shipping is not available for some months so that buyers at present holding back, owing to the uncertainty of the position, may come forward.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. FF. MARTIN,
Acting Secretary.

THE EDITOR,
The Planters' Chronicle,
Bangalore.

Demobilization.

Sir,—Will you kindly give publicity to the enclosed memorandum which I have received through the Madras Chamber of Commerce.

Employers should note that the Madras Chamber of Commerce advise that applications for release from military service should be sent direct to Government and not through the Chamber.

I am yours, etc.,
A. H. MEAD.

4—12—18.

The Madras Chamber of Commerce.

The following letter No. 13057, dated the 22nd November, 1918, from the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Simla, received by the Chamber, is circulated for the information of the Members of the Chamber,

Members are advised to send in their lists direct to Government.

W. D. ST. LEGER,
Secretary.

Madras, 29th November, 1918.

I am directed to address you on the subject of the release from military service of the members of your Chamber now serving with the forces under the Control of the Government of India; that is to say in India, Mesopotamia East Africa and Aden,

2. The military authorities will, as soon as the demobilization order is received, make every endeavour to give priority of release to all Europeans who were formerly in civil employment in India and for whom posts are now waiting. But, as the process of demobilization must be gradual, it will be of great assistance to the military authorities, if detailed priority lists can be supplied.

I am, therefore, directed to ask you to invite firms which are members of your Chamber to prepare lists giving names and, if possible, rank (or regimental numbers, in cases other than officers) of all persons employed by the firm, who are believed to be serving with the forces in India, Mesopotamia, Aden and East Africa. and for whom posts in the firm are in any way reserved on their release from military

service. Secondly, the firm should indicate, with full reasons, whether priority of release is claimed for any or all of the persons named in the list. Thirdly, if a claim for priority is made, it will be helpful if the firms state, as between individuals employed by them, whether they wish one man to be released earlier than another by being given special priority. The grounds on which claims for priority are based should be clearly stated in each case.

These lists should be sent by the firms either direct to the Government of India in this Department or through your Chamber as your Chamber may consider to be the more expeditious or convenient course.

Mangalore,
9/12/18.

TO THE EDITOR.
Planters' Chronicle.

The I. D. F. and the Planters.

Dear Sir,—With refrence to Nemo's letter of the 26th November printed in the *Planters' Chronicle* of the 30th ultimo, it is extraordinary what a fuss some people make over a week to 10 days compulsory drill. There must be something very wrong with the Labour Force, and general management of an estate which cannot run itself for that length of time alone.

Yours faithfully,
PEKOE.

Department of Commerce and Industry.
Government of India.
Indian Trade Commissioner,
60, Winchester House.
Old Broad Street,
London, E. C. 2.
23rd October 1818.

Rubber Substitutes.

L. E. KIRWAN ESQ.,
c/o R. B. Plumer, Esq.,
Hillside,
Bangalore.

My Dear Kirwan,—You ask me about rubber substitutes in Germany. The word "substitutes" is somewhat comprehensive and it is easiet to take it under the following heads:—

(1). GUMS OBTAINED FROM PLANTS.—Many efforts appear to have been made with natural Gums which are procurable locally mainly from the Euphorbia family but no success worth mentioning appears to have been obtained.

(2). SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTTES (by which I mean purely artificial substitutes containg no rubber at all). Something has been done here and much attention has been given to this matter. Products have been advertised in the German papers and considerable achievements claimed, but it is most doubtful whether in normal times such products would compete commercially with rubber of any pre-war prices. Some may doubtless remain in small articles as for instance for certain purposes in insulation.

(3) REGENERATION.—This appears to be the most important method of economising rubber. Waste and used rubber, apparently, is cut up and used again and again frequently with increasing proporions of mineral matter in the composition. Some of the articles so made are very serviceable but the opinion seems to be that such regenerated goods do not wear as well as similar articles from good rubber. I have no samples to send.

Thus on the whole the rubber industry must expect after the war some competition from alternative materials as Germany and Austria having been short of rubber and needing it badly for some time they have spent much effort finding substitutes and, presumbly, for some articles some success will have been achieved but as far as rubber producers are concerned it would appear that so far the only method which may cause them any thought is that of the wider use of scrap and waste rubber. There are several indications that much general success has not been obtained in Germany such as the packing of tyres of motor lorries with small metal springs, wooden rims for bicycles fixed with springs etc.

Yours sincerely,
D. T. CHADWICK.
Indian Trade Commissioner.

Castor Oil Plant in Tea.

The following letter, under the above heading, appeared in the *Madras Mail* of the 6th instant. It may be of some interest to those who contemplate the cultivation of castor on their estates:—

Sir,—Your correspondent "Nilgiris" enquires in your issue of the 26th November why the above plant should not be grown in or near tea. and "whether it has a harmful effect and what the effect is?" It should not be planted in tea because it belongs to the Euphorbia family of plants which are in no way beneficial to tea. On the contrary they are usually gross feeders and the castor is a particularly exhausting crop, especially on the soil resources of nitrogen. Secondly, it is subject to many pests in the shape of several species of caterpillars and leaf sucking aphidae. The former are destructive to all neighbouring vegetation, and the two worst, which also attack tea are the smooth looper caterpillar, *Ophiusa melicerte*, and the hairy *Trabala vishnu*. The smooth variety increases with incredible rapidity under certain climatic conditions, and after devouring the parent castor plant spreads over the surrounding vegetation, and as it is a quick and voracious feeder it does enormous damage in a short time. Some years ago I saw a tea estate in Northern India, where not only were the shade trees almost entirely stripped of their leaves, but similar and very considerable injury was done to the tea itself. The castor plant is not remunerative to grow above 3,000 or 4,000 feet on the hills though it exists up to 6,000 feet and besides being a soil exhausting plant it is the home of at least a doxen pests, some of which are known to be harmful to tea, while the others are always a potential danger. I would, therefore, recommend your correspondent to avoid planting castor in or alongside tea, though hitherto it is not reported to have produced evil effects when grown as a separate crop some little distance away, But why cultivate caster at all on an estate, as it requires either rich soil, or else large quantities of manure, and these two assets could be more profitably utilized on behalf of the more important tea crop.

Ootacamund. J. B. LESLIE ROGERS.

The Planters' Chronicle.

Recognised as the Official Organ of the U. P. A. S. I.

Incorporated.

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FLETCHER NORTON,

Managing Editor, Bangalore, S. India.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 51.] DECEMBER 21, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

It is with the deepest sorrow and regret that we have to report the passing away of Robert Anderson of Barguai, Mysore, who commenced coffee planting in 1854. His was a household and honoured name wherever Mysore Planters congregated, He was an upright honest gentleman of the old type, revered by his brother coffee planters and natives alike in Mysore. For years past he has suffered a serious illness with uncomplaining fortitude, nursed devotedly by one—his wife—to whom all our sympathies go out. Our own acquaintance, deepening into friendship, commenced in 1876, and with his passing away, the circle narrows. Though his work is done he has left an example of uprightness and manliness for the younger generation to follow. God rest his soul.

We call special attention to the address of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, which will until April 1st, 1919, be **8, Cambridge Road, Bangalore.**

The Combine Thermometer has risen to 8386·50 tons which is in excess of the 8,000 tons originally decided on. The Thermometer will therefore appear for only one week more, on the 28th December.

Mr. Lake has asked us to publish the following cable he sent to Mr. Mockett on the 14th instant, in connection with the Greek Government Purchase of 2,000 tons.

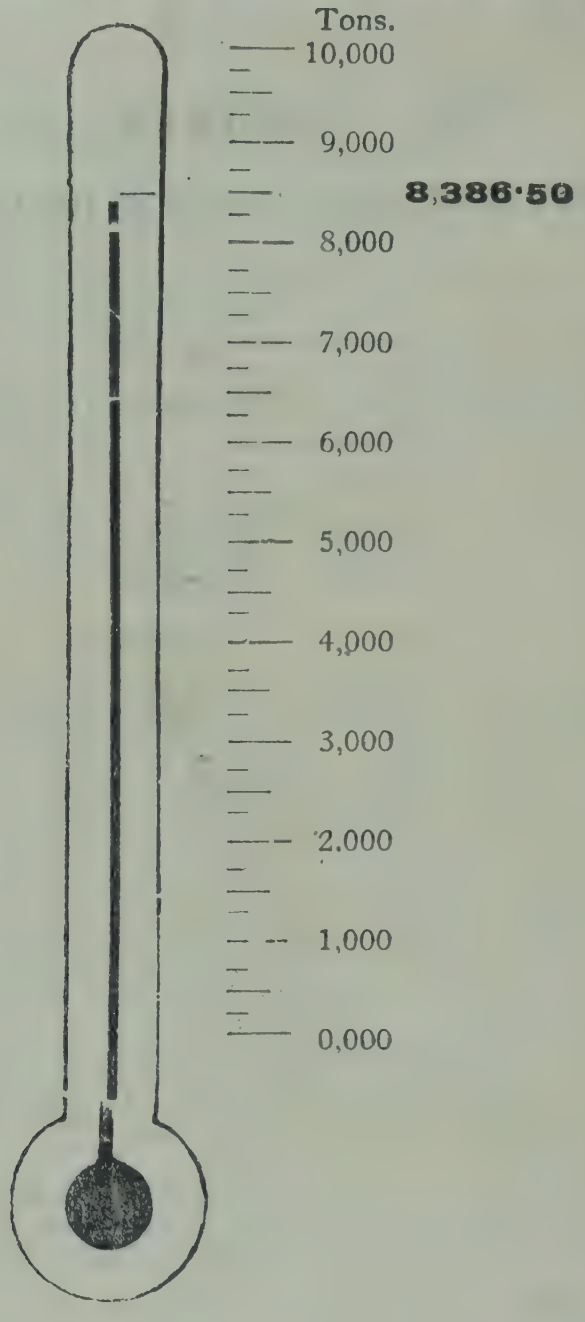
"Provided price fixed is eighty shillings or better Upasi guarantees eleven hundred tons to date. Will cable regarding balance shortly. Cable price arranged with Greece for Contract."

The following wire reached us to-day from the Madras Homeward Freight Conference :

"Rubber allotment January from Calicut, Cochin and Tuticorin is 1,250 tons weight total."

We publish articles from the Scientific Department, from the Tropical Agriculturist on Tapping on Renewed bark by Mr. Petch, and letters from the South Indian Association and one from Mr. Knapp on the Employment of released officers and men.

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 45 per cwt. ex go-down and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt. for ungarbled Native ex go-down amounts to date to **8,386½** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U. P. A. S. I.

Re-organisation of the Department.

With the change of headquarters of the U. P. A. S. I., the re-organisation of the Scientific Department also begins. On and after 1st January the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, will be moved to his bungalow, and his address will be, **8, Cambridge Road. Bangalore.** With the beginning of the new Government year in April 1919. Mr. Anstead's headquarters will be moved to the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, where probably accommodation will be found for his re-organised and enlarged office provided by the Government, and the Scientific Department will then be taken over entirely by, and become a re-organised part of, the Madras Agricultural Department.

Four Experiment Stations have been sanctioned, the sites have been chosen, the necessary leases drawn out, and work on the Farm Manager's quarters, etc., has already begun on two of them. The Coffee Experiment Station is situated in Coorg near Sidapur by the side of the main road from Mysore. The Tea Experiment Station is situated in Peermade on Stagbrook Estate. The first Rubber Experiment Station is at Mooply and the second one in South Travancore near Tenmalai, on the main road between Quilon and Shencotta. It is hoped to have all these Stations laid out during the coming year, so that actual work can be begun. A scheme of experiments will be drawn out for each one and submitted to the U. P. A. S. I. and opportunity given for planters interested in the different products to criticise there.

The Analytical Branch of the Department will after 1st January be situated at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, and will be in charge of the Government Agricultural Chemist. This is a change which is all for efficiency. The work will be done by a special Assistant on the subordinate staff of the College and will be supervised by the Agricultural Chemist who will issue certificates of analyses. The present scale of fees has been revised and after 1st January they will be as follows : —

A. Soils.

		Rs.
1.	A Complete chemical analysis including the available Potash and Phosphoric Acid	25
2.	A mechanical analysis	5
3.	A complete chemical and mechanical analysis ...	30

B. Fertilisers.

1.	Potash in Potassic fertilisers	5
2.	Phosphoric Acid, total and citric soluble in Phosphatic fertilisers	5
3.	Organic matter, insoluble matter, and Nitrogen in Poonacs, etc.	5

		Rs.
4.	Organic matter, insoluble matter, Nitrogen and Phosphoric Acid in Bones, Fish, etc.	5
5.	Complete analysis of fertilisers, such as general mixtures, composts, cattle manure, etc.	15
6.	Complete analysis of Lime, Limestone, etc.	5
7.	Analysis of ashes	5
8.	Analysis of Saltpetre, (Nitrogen and Potash)	5

These fees will be collected by the U. P. A. S. I. and payable to the Association as at present and all members of their local district Planters' Associations will be allowed a *discount of ten per cent.* It will be noted that the new scale of fees is very much the same as the old one, they have been raised slightly in some instances and lowered in others.

The new arrangement will necessitate a few changes in procedure. All samples should in future be sent to the **Government Agricultural Chemist. Agricultural College and Research Institute, Lawley Road P. O., Coimbatore**. with a covering letter stating the nature of the sample, and the kind of analysis required. Samples for analysis should no longer be sent to Bangalore or to Mr. Anstead. If special advice is needed from Mr. Anstead about samples, the valuation of fertilisers and their special use in a manurial system, etc. he should be written to separately. He will receive copies of all the analyses made and be prepared to report on them, and he will as heretofore prepare special reports on soils of planting districts and give advice as to manuring and cultivation based on the analyses made in the Government laboratory.

The change really amounts to this that, the analyses will be made in the laboratory of the Government Agricultural Chemist instead of in our own laboratory and that copies of these analyses will be handed to Mr. Anstead who will be prepared to report on them for planters if necessary, this obviously being a routine part of his duties. It will be obvious to all that this new procedure is an immense improvement on the old one. We shall have the advantage of a well equipped laboratory instead of our old make-shift one, a laboratory with all the modern appliances, and the work will be done under the constant supervision of the Government Agricultural Chemist and his staff instead of being left to an assistant.

Some time ago the change was suggested by the Dy. Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, and it has now been accepted and sanctioned by the Government and as stated above commences on 1st January, 1919.

The Estate Writers' Class.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Planting Districts, has just been to Coimbatore to examine the Estate Writers' Class in Mycology. This is the second class of this kind which has been held at the Agricultural College. This year it was attended by ten men and confined to Rubber Estates. These men are given an elementary training in Entomology by the Government Entomologist and are taught a little Botany and given a special training in Mycology by Mr. McRae, the Government Mycologist, to fit them for dealing with the control of disease on the estates.

The duration of the class is necessarily short,—only two and a half months—and I was agreeably surprised at the amount they had learnt in this time and at the sound practical training they had received. I not only examined the class on paper but interviewed each lad and questioned him, and also delivered two lectures to the class as a whole.

By way of an indication of the kind of training they are getting, the paper on Mycology set is here reproduced:—

1. What is the meaning of the following terms, (*a*) Mycelium (*b*) Perithecium (*c*) Basidium (*d*) Hypha (*e*) Sieve tube (*f*) Bark.

2. What are the functions of a leaf?

3. Describe the fungus which causes Pink Disease.

4. Five trees close together in a block of Rubber are found to be dying of Root Disease. What would you do to prevent the spread of this disease?

5. What measures do you intend to adopt when you return to your estate to prevent and control diseases?

The two lads who did best in the examination each got over 80% of marks on this paper so planters can get an idea of the degree of efficiency of the teaching if they will bear this in mind and then answer the above questions themselves.

The Entomologcial examination was held by the Government Entomologist and in the final result two lads were bracketted equal at the top of the class. Two prizes were offered, one by Mr. Anstead who presented the top lad in Mycology with Dr, Butler's new book and one by the Government Entomologist who is presenting the top lad in Entomology with Mr. Bainbrigge Fletcher's book. All the class passed with one exception and his failure was due to his difficulty in understanding English. Planters who send writers to attend these classes should bear in mind that the teaching must be done in English and it is useless to send men who are not fairly familiar with this language.

The hearty thanks of the Rubber Planting Community are due to the Officers concerned and especially to Mr. McRae for the immense amount of trouble they have taken with these classes and the most excellent results produced in so short a time. It takes up a lot of time and is really hard work and Mr. McRae is a busy man and has other classes to teach as well as his routine and research work to do. I was delighted with the amount of practical knowledge possessed by the class as a result of their training.

I have seen several of the members of last year's class at work on their estates and several managers have expressed their satisfaction with them and I have no reason to doubt but that this year's class will turn out just as well.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD,
Deputy Director of Agriculture,
Planting Districts.

RUBBER.

Tapping on Renewed Bark.

T. FETCH,

An experiment which had as its object the comparison of the yields obtained from renewing bark of different ages was begun on the Experiment Station, Gangaruwa, in July, 1916. A row of thirty-nine trees, then eleven years old, had been previously tapped out on three-thirds. That tapping was completed in December, 1913, and the trees had since been rested. The history of the previous tapping is as follows:—

Tapping was begun on the first third in October, 1910, when the trees were 5 years old, and completed in October 1911, the trees being tapping on alternate days. They were tapped on the half herring-bone, with cuts to the left, 1 foot apart, but the number of cuts varied on different trees, from one to five, according to their size. The yield per tree was 666 grams, or about one-and-a-half pounds.

Tapping on the second third was begun on November 1st, 1911 and completed on December 5th, 1912. As the trees were then larger, the average number of cuts was increased, but not above five, and the cuts were placed to the right. The yield per tree was 1183 grams, or 2 lb. 10 oz.

The third third was tapped from December 7th, 1912, to December 9th, 1913 with three cuts to the right on all the trees alike. The yield per tree was 1191 grams, or 2 lb. 10 oz.

At the beginning of July, 1916 each tree bore three areas of renewed bark of different ages. Reckoning from the beginning of the previous tapping on each section, the ages of these renewed barks were 5 years 9 months, 4 years 8 months, and 3 years 7 months. when tapping was again begun. The thickness of the renewed bark at about one foot from the ground was six to seven millimetres on the first third, and five to six millimetres on the second and third

The trees were divided into three groups of thirteen trees each, but one ot these had to be reduced to twelve. The average girth in each group was 36·5 inches. The trees stood in a single row, and were divided into groups in such a way that, as far as possible, the trees of different groups alternated with one another in the row. In the first group, the eldest renewed bark, that on the first third, was tapped; in the second group the next oldest, i.e., the second third group, the youngest renewed bark, or the third third. All the trees were tapped on alternate days by a single cut to the left at fifteen inches from the ground. Tapping was begin on July 1st 1916, and completed on June 30th 1918.

The yield per tree for the two years was 3601 grams in the first group (renewed bark 5 years 9 months old at the beginning of the experiment); 2828 grams in the second group (renewed bark 4 years 8 months old) and 2629 grams in the third group (renewed bark 3 years 7 months old). In pounds, etc., this is 8 lb. 6 lb. 4 oz and 5 lb. 13 oz. respectively.

The difference between the second and third groups is small. 7½ per cent., but the yield of the first group is 27 per cent. above that of the second.

The yields are given in detail in the following table. It must be noted that there were only twelve trees in the third group. The trees were all

tapped on the same day, by the same tapper. and tapped in the order in which they stood in the row, not according to the groups.

		Group 1	Group 2	Group 3		
Number of trees.		13	13	12		
Age of renewed bark.		5 yr. 9 mo.	4 yr. 8 mo.	3 yr. 7 mo.		
Thickness	do	6-7 mm.	5-6 mm.	5-6 mm.		
	Tappings.	Yield in grams.	Yield in grams.	Yield in grams.	Rainfall in inches.	Number of wet days.
1916—						
July ...	15	1,385	1,316	1,214	12·53	26
Aug. ...	15	2,293	1,475	1,817	4·69	16
Sept. ...	15	1,919	1,687	1,423	6.67	16
Oct. ...	16	2,704	1,776	1,780	6·77	19
Nov. ...	15	2,706	1,985	1,783	9 16	14
Dec. ...	15	2,213	1,517	1,478	4·04	10
1917—						
Jan. ...	15	2,026	1,674	1,269	5·83	12
Feb. ...	14	1,652	1,509	1,278	6.12	13
March ...	15	1,841	1,409	1,284	6·49	17
April ...	15	1,833	1,490	1,275	2·15	6
May ...	16	1,710	1,395	1,365	4·63	3
June ...	15	2,040	1,663	1,368	10·24	14
July ...	15	1,828	1,424	1,329	6 40	13
Aug. ...	16	1,842	1,340	1,228	9 95	15
Sept. ...	15	2,050	1,659	1,143	15·24	19
Oct. ...	14	1,897	1,665	1,332	9·63	13
Nov. ...	14	2,328	1,736	1,260	16 49	18
Dec. ...	16	2,305	2,075	1,207	6·49	13
1918—						
Jan. ...	14	2,183	1,674	1,607	4·53	13
Feb. ...	14	1,824	1,539	1,291	nil.	nil.
March ...	16	871	852	734	3·96	5
April ...	15	1,513	1,225	988	4·04	10
May ...	14	1,815	1,288	1,078	13·23	16
June ...	14	2,037	1,385	1,027	10·04	17

The percentage of scarp was 9·3 in the first group, 11·5 in the second and 13·3 in the third. Thus the younger bark gave a higher percentage of scrap. The variation in the percentages of scrap during the experiment is of some interest. Taken in periods of six months each, the percentages are as follows:—

		Group 1.	Group 2.	Group 3.
1916	July—Dec.	7·7	9·8	10·6
1917	Jan.—June	10·8	13·1	15·1
1917	July—Dec.	8·7	10·7	11·9
1918	Jan.—June	10·5	12·8	16·8

The percentage of scrap during the first six months of the year, which of course includes the dry months, is greater than that during the last six months. Whether this is purely a climatic effect, or whether it is related to the annual cycle of the tree is a matter for further investigation. It may be noted that this effect is greatest in the case of the youngest bark.

The yields per inch of circumference for the two years, reckoned on the initial girth, are 98.7, 77.5, and 72 grams respectively. The yields per vertical inch of tapped surface are 300, 237, and 219 grams respectively. The

yields per square inch of tapped surface are 8.2. 6.5 and 6 grams respectively.

All these renewed barks exhibited the well-known "red line." The position of this was not noted at the beginning of the experiment but the following observations were made on the untapped renewed bark at a height of twenty inches from the ground. *i.e.*, above the retapped areas, when the experiment was concluded. On the youngest renewed bark, then 5 years 7 months old, the red line was present as a broad band, two millimetres wide and three millimetrers from the cambium. On the next oldest, then 6 years 8 months old. it formed a similar band, two-and-a-half millimetres wide and three-and-a-half millimetres from the cambium. On the oldest renewed bark, then 7 years 9 months old, the cortex was eight millimetres thick, and the red line five millimetres from the cambium ; in their case the line was narrow but with a diffuse reddish area on either side of it.

In the accompanying diagram, the variations in the yield of the three groups during the cost of the experiment are shown graphically. These curves are based on the average yield per tapping per month; by that method variation in the total yield, due to varying numbers of tapping per month, is eliminated. The upper continuous curves gives the yield of the oldest renewed bark, the second continuous curve, from the top, that of the next oldest. and the broken or dotted curve that of the youngest. The lowest curve gives the rainfall during the period. In the case of the yield curves each division (vertically) represents ten grams ; in the rainfall curve each division represents two inches.

It will be noted that, though the three curves of yield are in general agreement, they are not parallel month by month. The second shows most variation in that respect. It does not rise as far as the other two in August, 1916, but it continues to rise in September when the other two fall. Similarly it rises in January 1917, when the other two are falling, and again in December 1917, while it differs from the other two in falling in January 1918.

The curves illustrate the now recognised fact that the yield increases during the latter half of the year, and falls during the earlier months when the trees are wintering. But in spite of the greater rainfall of the autumn of 1917, the yield then did not reach the level of that of the autumu of 1916, except in group 2. In estate practice, it would perhaps be said that this is because of the greater rainfall, as tapping is often stopped by rain. But reference to the recorded numbers of tappings per month will show that explanation does not hold good in the present instance, and, moreover, the curves give the average monthly yield per tapping, not the total monthly yield. It is possble that the lower yield in the latter half of 1917, as compared with 1916, is due to the fact that the tapping areas were than tapped out more than half way.

No fain fell during February 1918. The effect of this is seen in the yield for the following month, though it is, of course, then acting in conjunction with the wintering effect. A similar result is evident in 1916, where the decrease in the rainfall in August is followed by a drop in the yield in September. The same thing occurs in April, 1917. But this effect does not happen in more then half the number of possible cases.—*The Tropical Agriculturist.*

The diagram accompanying this article unfortunately cannot be reproduced.—[EDITOR, *P.C.*]

CORRESPONDENCE.

South Indian Association in London.

21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.
London, 18th October, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary,
U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—Since I wrote on 2nd October I have none of your letters to acknowledge.

IMPORTS OF JAVA TEAS.—At a meeting of my Committee held on 8th instant. this matter was brought up and it was agreed to refer the question to the Indian Tea Association. By the mail to hand this week from Calcutta, the Calcutta Association has addressed a letter to the Government of India, Commerce and Industry Department, dated 19th August, asking the Government for assistance.

FINANCIAL YEAR.—I enclose copies of correspondence with the Ministry of Food, in which they agree to the suggestion as in the case of Ceylon of allowing Concerns whose financial year does not coincide with the calendar year for the basis of three years working to meet the particular case, which the letters explain, on the nnderstanding that this arrangement will not affect the tender prices already agreed, which proviso has been accepted.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

South Indian Association in London.
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.
London, 15th October, 1918.

The following correspondence is circulated for information of all Members.

9th October, 1918.

THE SECRETARY,
Mlnistry of Food,
Tea Branch.

Dear Sir,—I am requested to address you with reference to the case of Companies and Estates whose financial year does not coincide with the calendar year. and to suggest that the Ministry would agree to allow for the basis of the three years working.

(*a*) That concerns whose financial year ends not later than 31st March, 1914, this date should be accepted.

(*b*) In the case of those whose financial year ends 10th June, the option will be given of preparing figures showing the average of the calendar years Ist January to 31st December, 1911, 1912 and 1913 ; or of basing their average upon the accounts from 1st July, 1910 to 30th June, 1913.

(*c*) In the case of those whose financial year ends 30th September, the average should be based upon the accounts from 1st October, 1910, to 30th September, 1913.

A similar arrangement to that already agreed to with Ceylon Estates is what is asked for, and I would be glad to learn that this proposal is approved, when I will notify all members,

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. F. BRUCE,
Acting Secretary.

Import Tea Section. Ministry of Food,
J. W. C. A. E. B. Palace Chambers, Westminster,
London, October 10th, 1918.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter dated October 9th, I have to inform you that this Ministry agrees to a similar arrangement for South Indian Companies as regards preparing the tenders, to that already agreed with the Ceylon Estates, when the financial year does not coincide with the calendar year.

I am informed that a considerable number of South Indian tender prices have already been agreed by this Ministry and I take it that this arrangement will not, in any way, effect the tender prices agreed and will only affect any tenders that have not yet been submitted to this Ministry. I shall be glad of your confirmation on this point.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. W. COOK,
Assistant Director of Tea Supplies.

Acting Secretary,
South Indian Association in London.

No. 167-11-3, Government of Madras,
Revenue (Special) Department.

From THE HON'BLE MR. A. H. KNAPP, I. C. S.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To THE SECRETARY,
The United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

Dated Fort St. George, the 16th November, 1918.

Employment of Released Officers and Men.

Sir,—The question of finding suitable situation in India for officers and men released from the British ranks of the Army who have no assured employment in civil life is being dealt with by the Central Employment and Labour Board at Delhi. It is estimated that there are five thousand men or more of these classes either serving with Indian Units, serving in India with territorial units or who having been employed in India are now serving in other theatres of war. The enquiries of the Central Employment and Labour Board which for the present will relate only to Europeans and Anglo-Indians will embrace all these classes.

2. The Government of India are most anxious that such arrangements should be made as will prevent any complaint that men who have done their duty to the Empire find themselves on release from the Army dependent on fortuitous aid in obtaining suitable employment. Committees are being established in the different Provinces which being in close touch with the various avenues of employment will be able to assist the Military authorities in this important national task.

3. The Governor in Council is confident that he may reckon on the ready co-operation of the planting community in the endeavour to find suitable employment for officers and men released from the Army. In the case of other avenues of employment a committee which it is proposed to establish in Madras and which will represent various interests will act in correspondence with the Central Employment Board. Instead, however, of bringing the case of employment on planters' estates within the scope of this committee's functions it would probably be more convenient if your Association would undertake the task of acting directly in correspondence with the Central Employment and Labour Board. I am to ask to be favoured with the views of your Association on this suggestion and to express the hope that they will be so good as to accept it.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Sd.) A. R. KNAPP, Secretary to Government.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore.)

VOL. XIII. No. 52.] DECEMBER 28, 1918. [PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all the Planting Community.

This is the last issue of the *Planters' Chronicle* under the present Editorship.

The Secretary, U. P. A. S. I. bids farewell to the Planting Community and thanks them one and all for their invariable courtesy to him during the past six and a half years.

All further correspondence from January 1st, 1919 should be directed to H. Waddington, Esq., Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., Coimbatore.

His telegraphic address will be Upasi, Coimbatore.

The Director, Labour Department, writes as follows:

"Mr. Clementson having left the service, Mr. Bruce P. Tailyour is now in charge of the Srivilliputtur Office of the Labour Department. Abbreviated telegraphic address 'Upasi' Srivilliputtur."

Mr. Chadwick wires as follows.—"Both yours received, Mockett and I acting on them. Wiring Monday."

The Combine Thermometer has reached 8,386·50 so the necessity for its future appearance no longer exists after this week.

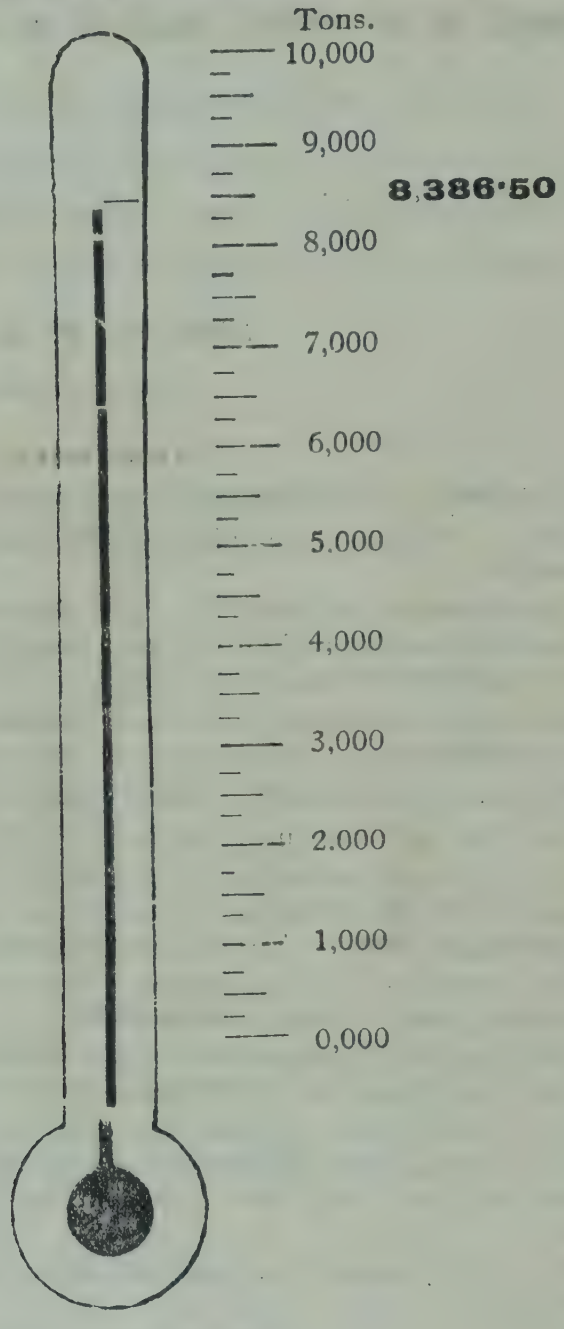
The articles on America and Rubber were sent for publication by Messrs. The General Rubber Company, Singapore. Now that restriction has been removed, they are somewhat out of date, but make instructive reading.

The rest of our issue is taken up with various correspondence touching Coffee and Tea

S. I. PLANTERS' WAR FUND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount previously acknowledged	84,981	10	3
Mr. D. Elkington	73	6	0
Mr. D. Elkington	81	0	0
Mr. H. Hadow	20	0	0
Mr. H. Waddington	30	0	0
Mr. C. J. Hayward	125	0	0
Mr. J. Stuart	150	0	0
Mr. A. J. Wright, Munnar	20	0	0
Messrs. Barber & Pascoe	150	0	0
Total Rs....	85,631	0	3

COMBINE FOR FAIR PRICES FOR COFFEE.



The tonnage subscribed to this date to the Combine to hold out for fair prices for coffee in the coming season;—say not less than Rs. 45 per cwt. ex go-down and Rs. 38 per cwt. for Native (Havre Standard) and Rs. 36-8-0 per cwt. for ungarbled Native ex go-down amounts to date to **8,386½** tons. It is confidently believed that the combine will succeed if strongly supported, and all planters will oblige by sending particulars of the tonnage they can subscribe to the Combine to the Editor, the *Planters' Chronicle* as early as possible. They will be at liberty to retire if within a reasonable time the above minimum prices cannot be realised, but the prospects of them being so, will be much improved if the thermometer can be brought to bursting point.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

RUBBER.

America and Rubber.

ANSWERS TO THE LONDON COMMENTS.

Very strong comments were made in *Truth* and the *Financial Times* about the supposed market operations of a combine of American rubber buyers, the allegation being that prices had been forced down by exaggerated reports as to American restrictions. The simple facts of American action have been made known and they conclusively disposed of the allegations, but we may quote the following from the India Rubber World of October 1: After quoting a statement in *Truth* that "American manufacturers are envious of our ownership of the Eastern plantation," the *Rubber World* says:—"Here is a profound lack of understanding of American psychology. Few Americans spend time envying. Nor does the American rubber man have any feeling toward those who built up the planting industry but friendly appreciation. He realises further that the work was not done from altruistic motives, and did not complain when during the rubber shortage a few years ago the planters got from him prices close to the three-dollar mark. Those same high prices, when he was on contract work, meant great financial loss, in some cases ruin, but he felt that the planter had a perfect right to sell for what he could get, and he paid without grumbling, and furthermore without any feeling against the English. * * *

By all means let the Rubber Growers' Association face the facts. They are these:—

1. The excess rubber importation can be easily accounted for. It is due to Colonial shippers, amongst them some very prominent English firms, forwarding large weights of rubber without an import license regardless of the fact that one was required.

Positive knowledge is now in the possession of the War Trade Board of considerably more than 5,000 tons so shipped and some of the best known English firms are implicated.

However, when this is used as a basis by some of our English friends to insinuate American manufacturers have deceived the United States Government and are bringing in more rubber than the programme calls for, then it is about time to make it clearly evident who are responsible for the excess importations over the prescribed schedule.

Here is a statement of the actual facts.

The amount of rubber actually licensed for importation by the Bureau of Imports of the War Trade Board from May 8th to September 23rd was 40,044 tons shipping weight or, after making allowances for the shrinkage allowed on Brazilian rubbers, say 26,000 tons dry weight.

Therefore, the allocation programme of 100,000 tons per annum is certainly being strictly lived up to.

Any weight beyond the above amount that has been shipped after May 8th is unlicensed rubber, cannot be entered for consumption until it is licensed, and when it is, it will apply against the schedule.

In other words, where provision is made for licensing 25,000 tons during the forthcoming quarter, not all of this by any means will leave overseas points.

The War Trade Board intends that this unlicensed rubber shall be taken care of. Consequently shipments from overseas during the next three months are likely to be slender indeed, particularly as the War Trade Board is not likely to deal leniently from this date, now that their import regulations are so well known, and any offender who persists in shipping without a license is liable to find himself in an uncomfortable situation.

Assuming that the importations of crude rubber during 1917 amounted to approximately 180,000 long tons, the actual consumption during 1917, as determined by a very careful census and backed up by sworn statements from substantially all the manufacturers, indicate an actual consumption of 330,653,640 pounds or say 147,613 long tons.

Stocks on hand and in transit to the United States :

	tons.
December 31, 1917	67,535
Stocks on hand and in transit, March 31, 1918 ...	87,572
Stocks on hand and in transit, July 31, 1918 ...	77,413

During August and September, the output of pneumatic tyres was limited to 50 per cent. of the manufacturer's 1917 production. For the forthcoming quarter of October-December, the same restriction applies, and in addition thereto the manufacture of more or less non-essential articles is to be either eliminated or heavily curtailed.

It is our best judgment that the total consumption during the forthcoming quarter will not exceed 32,000 tons against 25,000 tons to be licensed. The reduction of 7,000 tons in stock can be sustained by reason of the heavy weights on hand and in transit, as indicated.

2. The news of American restrictions brought about a bear market in the Far East. Some American and some English rubber manufacturers doubtless purchased largely at low figures. They will have to store the rubber in a tropical country perhaps for years, a costly proceeding. They took a risk that the planter did not wish to take.

3. The American rubber industry is straining every nerve to win the war. Its best plants are already on war work; its best men are in war work, thousands of its young men are in the army. It is giving up time, money and effort to the limit and gladly.

4. The record of the American rubber trade in its crude rubber dealings is unsurpassed for unfaltering fairness. At the beginning of the war England declared an embargo on crude rubber to keep it from the Central Powers. The American rubber trade through the Rubber Association agreed to buy only for its own uses and the embargo was lifted. The Association through its committees, its information service, and its legal advisers, saw to it that this agreement was kept to the letter. It involved the expenditure of thousand of dollars, the fighting of law suits instituted by Germans, and unremitting watchfulness. The result was that in spite of Teutonic money and ingenuity, so little rubber got away that figured in percentages it would be in the hundredths of one per cent. America did it for her own manufacturers, but it accrued to the signal advantage of the British planters at a time when the German and the Austrian market was closed to them."—*The Straits Times.*

The following has been sent us by Messrs. the General Rubber Company, Singapore :—

U. S. and Rubber.

R. G. A and Restriction of Imports.

The attention of the Council of the Rubber Growers' Association has been drawn to various articles which have recently appeared in the public Press reflecting upon the bona fides of the restrictions which have been imposed by the United States Government upon the importation of rubber into that country.

It has been asserted that there is no real intention to restrict the imports of rubber to the United States to the rate of 25,000 tons per quarter,

It has been insinuated that the motives influencing the import restrictions have been to depress the price of rubber in Eastern ports, to the present advantage of the American buyers and the possible future control by them of the sources of plantation rubber.

The facts of the case, which prove these views to be entirely erroneous, are as follows :—

1. In December, 1917, the Inter-Allied Conference in Paris stated that the demand for tonnage for the transport of troops would necessitate a restriction of imports generally.

2. In March, 1918, it was announced by the United States Government that rubber would be one of the commodities to be restricted.

3. When the Government order was issued and the restrictions defined it was decreed :—

a. That shipments made before May 9th, 1918, were not to be affected.

b. That of shipments made from May 9th to end, July 25,000 tons were to be licensed for import into the United States.

The various interests concerned took the following steps to meet the position :—

The Rubber Growers' Association in December, 1917, put forward a scheme, subsequently amended in February, 1918, by which its members should voluntarily reduce their output of rubber. This scheme was agreed to by members owning over 70 per cent. of the acreage represented by the association and a little over one-third of the total area under rubber, and the scheme became operative. The rest of the producers ignored the warning given by the Inter-Allied Conference.

When rubber was definitely scheduled in March as an import to be restricted the rubber traders at once bought and made large shipments from the East, in anticipation of the fixing of the date at which licenses would be necessary, which was eventually fixed as May 9th, since which date shipments destined for the U. S. A. have been limited to the rate of 100,000 tons per annum.

Rubber arrivals in U. S. for the period from May 9th to July 31st are made up of two items :—

(*a*) Rubber shipped prior to May 9th, and, therefore, free of the import restriction.

(*b*) Rubber shipped after May 8th and imported under license.

The fact that these two (a and b) quantities have totalled more than the licensed amouut of 25,000 tons appears to have given rise in some quarters to suspicions of the bona fides of the U. S. Government, and various sinister motives have been atrributed to it.

The U.S. imports of rubber during 1918 are approximately as follows :—

	Tons.
January	16,084
February	13,108
March	17,161
April	12,703
May	16,288
June	24,124
July	16,092 (Cabled)
August	10,421 (Cabled)

The heavy imports in June reflect the large shipments which were made in April and prior to May 9th. The August figure indicates that the import restrictions have become effective and entirely disposes of any suggestion of bad faith on the part of the United States Government.—*The Financier*, October 10th, 1918.

CORRESPONDENCE.

South Indian Association in London.

6th November, 1918.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary.
U. P. A. S. I.

Dear Sir,—I wrote you on 23rd October and Mr. Knight has handed me your cable of 16th October to acknowledge, reading;

"Knight no information to be obtained here. In conjunction with R. G. A. press Shipping Ministry to place space at disposal of South Indian Planters in accordance with your cable of twenty seventh ultimo."

This has been handed to Mr. Cox on behalf of the Rubber Sub-Committee, and all the members have received a copy. Steps have been taken to approach the authorities in the India Office to induce them to help in securing more shipping facilities from the Ministry of Shipping. I have no information so far to pass on.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Secretary.

Tea.

Indian Tea Association (London).
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.

To all Members. London, 5th November. 1918.

With reference to the adjoined letter and the circular issued on 28th October, I give below details of the various methods of payment in respect of the portion of the 1917 and 1918 crops already delivered to the Ministry of Food. These can be classed under five heads.

Special forms for making out final invoices in respect of Transition teas have already been distributed to Members. Adjustments in all other cases do not require any special form.

1. Transition Tea, *i.e.*, all Tea shipped between 1st November and 15th December 1917 inclusive.—Payment all in sterling in London. Adjustments between flat rate & contract price to be made in London special forms supplied by Ministry.

2. Balance of 40% of 1917 crop. *i.e.*, Teas shipped after 15th December.—Payment in full rupees. Adjustments to be made in India.

3. Excess over 40% of 1917 crop. Payment 50% in rupees in India and balance in sterling in London. Adjustments to be made as to 50% in India and as to 50% in London.

4. 1918 crop, *i.e.*, all teas shipped before end of May which do not come into 1918 Contract.—Payment and adjustment same as No. 3.

5. 1918 Crop. *i.e.*, 66% of outturn.—Payment 60% in rupees in India and 40% in sterling in London. Adjustments as to 60% in India in rupees, and as to balance in London in sterling.

Ministry of Food,
Palace Chambers, Westminster.
London, 4th November 1918.

Dear Sir.—Referring to your letter of 28th October, please note that it is not intended that special forms, on which final accounts for National control Tea shipped after 15th December, last, shall be issued by this Ministry.

It is desirable that such Accounts shall be made out at the full price finally agreed between sellers and this Ministry, Calcutta charges and interest added, and the amount already paid previously deducted, showing the balance remaining. This is preferable to rendering difference accounts between the previously fixed rates and agreed prices.

Sellers will understand that such adjusting accounts may be made out in Calcutta, as the full amount of rupees is properly due to shippers there, and it is only in cases where shippers desire to make the adjustment here, and so advise this Ministry, that such accounts will be rendered in London.

Yours faithfully,
E. BAILEY,
For Assistant Director of Indian Tea Association.

Indian Tea Association (London).
21, Mincing Lane, E. C. 3.
London, 18th November, 1918.

To all Members.

Several members having applied to the Secretary for the forms for rendering final invoices. It is now stated no forms are to be provided, as will be seen from the following correspondence.

Ministry of Food,
Room 438, Palace Chambcre, Westminster,
F. A. BRUCE, ESQ., London, 15th November, 3918,
Acting Secretary,
India Tea Association (London).

Dear Sir,—Mr. Pigott informs me that you are continually being asked to provide forms for rendering final invoices for National Control Tea, owing to the fact that the letters confirming the agreement with the Tender stated that such forms will be available. The statement referred to only applies to Invoices for Transition Tea, and I regret that there should have been any misunderstanding on this point. It was understood, however, that final invoices for shipments subsequent to the Transition Tea would be made up in India, as in the ordinary way drafts for the amounts due would be drawn by the shippers upon the Ministry, and negotiated with the exchange Banks in order to obtain the amount of Rupees required: It is true that there were a few cases in which by special arrangement it was agreed that final settlement should be made on this side. My letter of the 4th instant, of which I enclose a copy, correctly states the position.

Permit me again to express my regret that your Members should have been put to any inconvenience in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Director of Finance,

4th November, 1918.

Dear Sir,—Referring to your letter of 28th October pleaae note that it is not intended that special forms, on which final accounts for National Control Teas shipped after 15th December last, shall be issued by this Ministry.

It is desirable that such accounts shall be made out at the full price finally spread between sellers and this Ministry, Calcutta charges and interest added, and the amount already paid previously deducted, showing the balance remaining. This is preferable to rendering difference accounts between the previousiy fixed rates and agreed prices.

Sellers will understand that such adjusting accounts may be made out in Calcutta, as the full amount of rupees is properly due to shippers there, and it is only in cases where shippers desire to make the adjustment here, and advise this Ministry, that such accounts will be rendered in London.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) E. BAILEY,
for Assistant Director of Finance.

A. F. BRUCE, ESQ.,
Indian Tea Association.

The work of the Imperial Institute on Indian Hides.

Since 1916 the Hides and Tanning Materials Committee of the Imperial Institute have been at work on the difficult question of finding markets within the Empire for the Indian raw hides and skins, which before the war were exported to foreign countries' the hides chiefly to Germany and Austria and the skins to the United States. The Committee have presented several reports, which are under consideration by the Government of India and in due course full information as to the results of their deliberations will no doubt be made public. It is clear however from the lecture given recently before the Royal Society of Arts by a member of the Committee, Sir Henry Ledgard, that the Committee are convinced that a market for these hides can be found within the Empire, partly by increased tonnage in India and partly by export to the United Kingdom and to the Dominions, especially Canada, Australia and South Africa, and it is known that the Committee have already taken action to familiarise tanners in Canada and South Africa with the good qualities of Indian hides.

The first step towards effective post-war action in connection with hides and skins, as with other essential raw material, is complete and accurate knowledge of the trade. The Imperial Institute provides this information in an article entitled "Indian Hides and Skins" published in the current number of its Bulletin (No. 2 of 1918: John Murray, 2s.6d) just issued.

The article deals exhaustively with Indian sources of supply of hides and skins, estimates the present output in comparison with that of other competing countries and discusses in detail the trade figures in pre-war times and the changes in destination of exports brought about by the war. This information should be of great value to all concerned in this trade and the industries dependent on hides and skins as raw material.

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23 Gledhow Gardens,
South Kensington, London, S.W.
19th November, 1918.

Coffee.

FLETCHER NORTON, ESQ.,
Secretary, U. P. S. A. I.

Dear Sir.—For some time I have been working through the International Commission de Revitaillment and the Ministry of Food to induce Greece and other allied countries to purchase some of the coming Indian Coffee crop and at last with some result. On the 13th instant I cabled to you as follows *viz.*, " Peilstift (at what price) obraras (can you offer) plantation, farrotype (f. o. b.) now. reply quickly.'(

After sending this off I was suddenly called to the Offices of the above-named Commission to meet the representative of Greece and to discuss the purchase by that country of a portion of the coming Indian Coffee crop. There were present Mr. Pelly Dick of the Commission, Mr, Grigson of the

Ministry of Food. who helped me so much on the last occasion, Mr. Chadwick the Commissioner of Indian Trade. the Repersentative of Greece, and myself, and the discussion lasted for over an hour with the result that subject to a satisfactory price being fixed Greece will buy two thousand tons of our plantation coffee to be delivered f. o, b, at Mangalore. Tellicherry, and Calicut, between March 15th and 31st, The Greek officlal was not authorised to agree to a price so will refer that point to his Govern ment. I also desired to consult the U. P. A. S. I., although I had got instructions to obtain Rs. 50 per cwt. f, o, b. if possible, but that was some time ago before peace was in sight, and your views may have changed since. I therefore cabled you on the 15th November. "Selling Greece two thousand tons plantation cable quickly price required per cwt. sterling f. o. b. coast," aud I await your reply.

I told the meeting that in my opinion 80 s. per cwt. f. o. b. would be a fair price now, and I shall endeavour to secure that even if you cable a lower sum.

I am endeavouring to get the transaction carried out through the U. P. A. S. I., but there are difficulties. The Greek Official stated that all communications must be with one person, as on the last occasion much confusion was caused to him by having to deal with several different persons in India. I suppose with one at each Port.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) BROOKE MOCKETT,

P.S.—I think it preferable to fix the price in sterling if possible as Exchange is more likely to fall than to rise and whereas Rs. 50 per cwt. at present rate (1/6) would be equal to 75 s. per cwt., if exchange falls to 1/5 it would be only 70s·10.

South Travancore Planters' Association.
Merchiston Estate,
Kallar Bridge P. O.
15th December, 1918.

General Committee Meetings.

THE SECRETARY,
United Planters' Association of South India.

Dear Sir,...On behalf of this Association I desire to enter an emphatic protest against the holding of the General Committee meeting at the convenient centre of Ootacamund on the 16th instant without first obtaining an opinion from this Association as to the convenience of the date or place. It seems to our representatives that these meetings are arranged to suit the convenience of three or four men who either live handy to the place or have time to attend to the meetings at a minute's notice. Whatever may be done in places nearer at hand, it is impossible for men in these parts to get their mail at dinnertime, get a telegram to attend a meeting at Calicut or Ooty, pack up a bag and start off at night to get the train 40 miles away. This however seems to be the idea in fixing meetings by wire. I will now give instances.

On the 8th evening I receive a wire asking for my opinion as to date and place of meeting to be sent by wire to Upasi. As I am not the representative on the General Cemmittee I cannot say what will be the most suitable place or time so have to send off a wire to Mr. Mackie. Now we have no telegraph office nearer than 34 miles so telegrams cannot be sent at a moment's notice by walking 100 yards down the road. Before Mr. Mackie has had time to think over the matter the date has already been fixed for the 16th instant. Your wire to that effect was sent on the 11th instant and reached me about 7 p. m, on be next day. Now

if I had been a member of the Committee, in order to attend that meeting I would have had to start after dinner and walked to Trevandrum (as our hill roads do not permit us to keep a motor on the Estate) 34 miles caught the early morning train to Quilon and gone up by backwater to Ernakalum and from there proceeded to Ooty by train if the landslips on the Nilgiri railway would have allowed me. With luck I might have got to Ooty on the 15th in time for the meeting on the 16th. I am not a Committee member but Messrs. Mackie and Ross are. The latter was away from the estate for a couple of days so was not available. I wired to Mr. Mackie at Quilon. Now as you are well aware he is the General Manager of a very large business firm and has many other interests besides the U. P. A. S. I. In addition many of his staff have gone to the front or are in the I. A. R. O. and therefore his office is very much undermanned. He very naturally complains that the notice given is such that he cannot possibly attend so that at this important meeting this Association will have no representatives present simply because no thought is given to the difficulties of getting away at a moment's notice or of the distances to be travelled.

I am writing in this strain because I have before pointed out to you the impossibility of attending meetings at short notice. On the evening of the 26th September last a wire should have reached me to attend a meeting at Calicut on the 2nd October. As I have two estates to look after and no assistant it is impossible for me to get away without time to make some arrangements for things to be carried on in my absence, especially in these times when the food question is serious enough to cause some discontent and warrant a planter thinking twice before he goes away without leaving some European in charge. Fortunately Mr. Mackie happened to be in Calicut at the time on other business so we were represented at the meeting.

I undertand that Mr. Mackie has wired you that he considers the meeting should be held in Madras early in the New Year and that 2 weeks' notice should be given. I quite agree with that as without notice it, is not possible for the Association to instruct its representatives on any points that it might wish to bring forward. I trust therefore that the meeting has been put off as suggested and that in future more notice will be given so that I may be able to make some arrangements for representatives to attend, Being over 600 miles away from Madras, these trips do not mean a day's absence from the Estate but at least a week if not more.

I intend to bring the matter before the next meeting of the Association for a more official protest,

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) R. J. A. MOORE,
Honorary Secretary.

Office of the Director of Agriculture,
Madras, 16th December, 1918.

R. O. C. No. 1039-Gt,

Laboratory U. P. A.

From G. A. D. STUART, ESQ., I. C. S.,
Director of Agriculture, Madras.

To THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,
Planting Districts, Bangalore.

Sir,—With reference to my R. O. C. No. 1039—Gt., dated 9th December 1918, I have the honour to request you to arrange to pack up and send to the Government Agricultural Chemist, Coimbatore, all apparatus

and chemicals at present in the laboratory of the United Planters' Association, Southern India, which that body may wish to dispose of. Please make a joint valuation of this with Dr. R. V. Norris at Coimbatore and let me know the value of the apparatus and chemicals taken over.

2. All analytical work pending at the end of this month should be transferred to the Government Agricultural Chemist at Coimbatore. The Chemical Assistant M. R. Ry. T. Lakshman Rao will return to Coimbatore from 1st January 1919.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant.
(Signed) G. A. D. STUART,
Director ot Agriculture.

Endorsement:—Copy to the Government Agricultural Chemist for information.

I have agreed with the United Planters' Association Southern India to take over their apparatus and chemicals. Please report after valuing same whether you can meet out from your budget or require any additional funds.

(Signed) G. A. D. STUART,
Director of Agriculture.

To the Government Agricultural Chemist.

Again Endorsement thereon:—Copy to the Seeretary. United Planters' Association, Southern India, for information.

(Signed) G. A. D. STUART,
Director of Agriculture.

No. 902. Government of Madras,
Revenue (Special) Department.

Java Tea.

From THE HON'BLE MR. A. R. KNAPP, I. C. S.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To THE CHAIRMAN,
United Planters' Association of Southern India,
Bangalore.

Dated Fort St. George, the 18th December, 1918.

Sir,—I am directed to refer to your letter dated the 27th July and to Mr. Norton's letter dated the 28th August, 1918 in which the following suggestions were made:—

(1) That the import into India of all foreign tea or at least of Java tea should be prohibited;

(2) That, in the alternative, an import duty of four annas a pound should be placed on all tea imported into India!

(3) That in view of the extremely inferior quality of some of the imported teas, a standard of quality should be enforced; and

(4) That the Australian Government should be asked to re-impose the prohibition on the import of Java tea into the Commonwealth.

2. The first suggestion has already been twice before the Government of India having been raised on the first occasion in the correspondence, ending with Government Order No. 1 Miscellaneous, dated the 3rd January 1918 and on the second occasion by the Hon'ble Mr. Irwin, representative of the tea planting community on the Bengal Legislative Council and was rejected on both the occasions and the Government of India state that they cannot see their way to modify their previous decision in the matter.

3. The second suggestion was considered by the Government of India in 1910 and rejected as opposed to the principles on which the Indian tariff is based. They have now considered it again but regret that they cannot see their way to selecting this particular article for the imposition of a high specific duty.

4. The Government of India consider that it is not possible to take action on the suggestion that a standard of quality should be enforced with a view to keeping out the inferior quality of tea alleged to be imported into the country.

5. With reference to the last suggestion the Government of India point out that the Australian Government in its decision to remove the embargo which they placed on the import of foreign teas in 1917 have not in any way been influenced by the absence of any prohibition on the import of foreign teas into India but that the prohibition was removed mainly with the object of securing the services of Dutch shipping for the carriage of essential commodities into Australia. You must however have gathered from Reuter's telegram dated the 17th September 1918 that a restriction has recently been imposed again on the importation of outside tea into Australia by limiting it to 20 per cent. of the total importation in 1917-18. I am further to invite your attention to the fact that exports of tea from India to Australia during the five months ending 31st August amounted to 2,175,458 lbs. as compared with 3,227,635 and 1,052,004 lbs. respectively during the same period of 1917-18 and 1916-17. In these circumstances, the Government of India do not consider that any useful purpose would now be served by their asking the Commonwealth Government to reimpose the prohibition.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) S. WADSWORTH,
for Secretary to Government.

THE EDITOR, Calicut, 21st December. 1918.
Planters' Chronicle.

Market Reports.

By the Mail just in Messrs. Leslie and Anderson write to us under date:—

6TH NOVEMRER, 1918.

COFFEE.—Our market continues strong for all descriptions. We feel sure the following extract from the *Times* will interest you, and we leave you to circularise your constituents. This confirms information we passed on to you some weeks ago.

EXTRACT FROM THE "TIMES" CITY ARTICLE DATED 2ND NOVEMBER, 1918.

BRAZILIAN COFFEE CROP DAMAGE.

"The reports which have reached this country by cable of the injury which the coffee crop of State of San Paulo has suffered from two days of frost have hardly conveyed a full indication of the damage done. The private reports appeared to be so exaggerated that the San Paulo Government appointed a Commission to investigate them. The report of the Commission, just to hand by Mail, shows that the damage was very serious. In the State of San Paulo, according to the Commission. 80 per cent of the coffee trees were destroyed or so weakened that it will be years before they can yield as before. Not only Coffee but sugar, Castor Oil, and Mandioca

plantations and pasturage were materially damaged. According to generally accepted estimates, the number of bearing coffee trees in Brazil was 791,000,000 : of these some 361,000,000 are said to have been killed, while the new plantation not yet bearing are reported totally destroyed. It is calculated that only from 1922 forward can the coffee crop be normalized, and yield from 10,000,000 to 12,000.000 bags, as before the frost, even on the condition that all the destroyed trees be replaced. The expected effect upon the Railways of the State is shown in a generally accepted estimate, giving for 1918 12,000,000 bags, for 1919 4,000,000 bags, and for 1920 6,000,000 bags.

In commenting upon the damage to the Coffee crop, the October trade report of the London and Brazilian Bank states that, although the damage done can only be looked upon as a very serious calamity indeed to the individual Fazondeiro, it may be to some extent regarded as a blessing in disguise to the State as a whole, as it must tend to valorise coffee and also make the Fazondeiro pay more attention to the cultivation of other products but probably chiefly cotton, the growth of which has already greatly increased during the past two years. Of course, this year's coffee crop, 1918-19, is in no way affected, except that it should fetch a much better price. As will be seen from our usual Brazilian market report, the coffee market has developed considerable strength, partly on account of the European situation, and partly owing to the damage to the coffee plantations, and the exchange value of the milreis has advanced further to 12d."

PEPPER.—Prices here show a fall since we last wrote, and the market is rather dull, but we do not see where fresh supplies can come from, so we expect a recovery. We quote Tellicherry Black on the spot to-day about 2s per lb. nominal.

CARDAMOMS—Dealers are been buyers on account of an ezpected demand when peace comes.

RUBBER—There has keen a steady improvement in prices during the past two months in this market—prices having advanced about four pence per lb. Manufacturers seeing the large stocks still available have been disappointed in not securing supplies at the low quotation ruling some time ago, and it would appear reported to the Government that a large out side speculative account for a rise was being engineered with the result that the Government have been making enquiries, and have threatened the market that if prices continue to advance they will consider the question of controlling prices. This action has rather unsettled the market, but the tendency is still steady at the advance. While we look for the Government to keep their hands for some time on the articles which they now control we feel confident prices for Rubber will ultimately advance considerably.

GENERAL SITUATION.—The tendency of operators in all markets is to look on, so that markets generally are quiet.

20TH NOVEMBER, 1918,

COFFEE. Prices for Costa Rica's and other mild Coffees are about 10*s*. to 15*s*. per Cwt. lower, but of course are still high at about 135*s*. per Cwt. with very little of the kind on the market.

PEPPER. The market is unsettled—we quote Tellicherry Black on the spot 1*s*. 10*d*. per pound nominal. Prices of pepper generally are inclined to be lower, but should the Government be liberal with licenses for export we have little doubt that the market would become steadier.

RUBBER—The market has developed an uncertain tone—last week Standard Crops were sold as high as 2/6, per lb., but to-day is about a penny lower, Standard Sheets also being about a penny per lb. lower.

Yours faithfully,
Peirce, Leslie & Co., Ltd.

Office of the Tea Commissioner for India.

Block B—3. Clive Buildings, Calcutta,

No. 22740 85 T. C.

Tea.

From

LT. COL, W. H. KENNEDY, C. I, E., I. A.,
Tea Commissioner for India.

To

All Tea Agency Houses, Firms and Estates shipping
Tea to the Food Controller from Northern and Southern India.

Dated 18th December 1918.

Gentlemen Sir,—I have the honour to invite a reference to Food Controller's cable No. 76 dated the 27th May 1918, which was reproduced in my circular letter No. 12298 12335 T. C. dated the 30th idem, and in which the Food Controller directed that teas not up to the standard should be rejected I have since received the following cable dated the 12th instant from the Food Controller in this connection.

"Number 138 Clause 4 Contract entitles you to reject before shipment in certain circumstances but says nothing about making cuts in prices for inferior quality. Where necessary you should tell seller that you will reject unless he is agreeable to making what you consider a fair allowance. Sellers agreement should be obtained in writing. If arbitration is necessary in any case it would have to take place on your right to reject altogether. No question of making a fair allowance could be referred to arbitrators."

It will be observed that the Food Controller now recognises the acceptance of teas at a reduction, when they are not up to the usual standard of manufacture of the estate. As shippers are aware I have, from time to time, (owing chiefly to a shortage of tea to fill the allotted tonnage) accepted teas at a cut, provided that the deterioration was casual in the case of a few invoices, and not habitual. I have, also, always been prepared to allow a shipper to withdraw an invoice recommended by my experts for acceptance at a cut, should he wish to dispose of it on the local market. In future, when passing teas for shipment at a cut, the shipper concerned will be asked by me to confirm by letter his acceptance of the reduction. I shall also continue to allow him the option of withdrawing the invoice and tendering another in substitution.

I have the honour to be
Gentlemen,/Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. M. KENNEDY,
Tea Commissioner for India.

Memo. No. 22786/22800 T.C., dated the 18th December, 1918

Copy forwarded to the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore.

R. MILLER,
For Tea Commissioner for India.